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## Dump truck clips pole, causes power outage

**BURNSIDE** A dump truck clipped a power pole in Burnside yesterday afternoon.

The pole and the lines fell on the truck and the driver was trapped inside until crews from Nova Scotia Power made it safe for him to leave.

Margaret Murphy, a spokeswoman for NSP, said the accident happened at 1:15 p.m. and crews were looking to restore power to the area by 8 p.m. last night. Borden, MacDonald and Wright avenues were affected.

METRO HALIFAX

## ShareYourViews

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## Holiday Guide pg21

Gift ideas for your list



## Comment pg 12

## No one safe from ID thieves

## Sports pg 15



## China girls have local at helm

## Local pg 4



## Liquor sales spike at NSLC

# Boat ill-equipped, coast guard lacked plan: Report

DEVIN STEVENS  
for Metro Halifax

**A fishing boat that capsized during a tow through icy waters wasn't equipped for conditions, and the Canadian Coast Guard didn't have a proper plan for the manoeuvre, says a government report.**

"L'Acadien II was neither designed, constructed, nor adequately modified to operate in these conditions,"

said Transportation Safety Board investigator, Don Eaves.

Three crew members died, while another is missing and presumed dead, after L'Acadien II hit a piece of ice off the Cape Breton coast last March.

Based out of Iles-de-la-Madeleine, Que., the boat had lost its steering during the seal hunt and was being towed by a coast guard icebreaker at the time.

Two crew members were

rescued by a nearby fishing boat.

Eaves said L'Acadien II's clutch was engaged during the tow, sending the boat out of the icebreaker's wake and into the ice. He couldn't say if it was deliberate or because of mechanical failure.

The boat hit the ice at full speed, attempting to break it. It went on top of the ice before capsizing, dumping its crew into the water.

Eaves wouldn't say who

was to blame for the accident, or what could have been done differently to prevent it.

The report also says the towline was kept short and lookouts were in place.

That contradicts eyewitness accounts from a second fishing boat in the area.

The report makes two recommendations. Firstly, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans should put guidelines in place for tow-

ing a vessel through ice. Secondly, the Department of Transportation must make sure all fishing vessels operating in ice are structurally sound to do so.

In a written statement, Canada's Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, Gail Shea, said the coast guard will read the report and consider the recommendations.



Watch sealers outraged at report into fatal capsizing at [metronews.ca/canada](http://metronews.ca/canada)



A reporter talks on her phone as plumes of smoke rise from the top of the landmark Taj Hotel in Mumbai, India. Heavy firing could be heard and local television reported that unknown assailants had earlier attacked the hotel. At least six of the reported dead are foreigners.

# At least 101 dead in Indian terror attacks

**MUMBAI** At least 101 people were killed in what officials called "terrorist attacks" by gunmen in India's commercial hub Mumbai and security forces began moving on two luxury hotels where foreign hostages were being held, officials and witnesses said.

The attacks by small groups of gunmen armed with automatic weapons and grenades on the hotels and other sites came amid

state elections, including in Kashmir, and risk destabilizing the country ahead of national elections next year.

Police said they had killed four gunmen and arrested nine suspects. They said 12 police were killed, including Hemant Karkare, the chief of the anti-terrorist squad in Mumbai.

As of Metro's deadline last night, Vilasrao Deshmukh, Maharashtra state

chief minister, was saying the situation was not yet contained.

"It is very difficult to say how many terrorists are holed up in the two hotels," he said, although Indian Home Minister Shivraj Patil had earlier said there were up to five attackers in each.

A witness said that hours after the assaults began, police surrounded the Taj Hotel, with fresh firing heard and a floodlight scanning

its exterior. A fire in the hotel was still not under control.

Gunfire and explosions were heard at the landmark Taj Mahal hotel and smoke rose from the building. Staff and guests were seen running out of the lobby. There were also explosions at the Oberoi hotel and firing at a hospital where gunmen were surrounded.

Security forces were seen

moving into the hotels.

Police said at least 287 people were wounded in the attacks, which also targeted a railway station and the city's famous Cafe Leopold restaurant.

A previously little-known organization calling itself the Deccan Mujahideen claimed responsibility in an e-mail to news media.

**FOR MORE COVERAGE, SEE PAGES 9 AND 10**  
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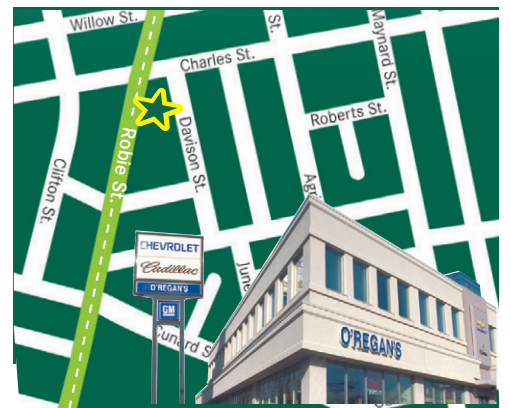
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**Dining out** According to Statistics Canada, spending at restaurants where you order and pay at the counter went up 1.2 per cent in Canada, in all provinces but P.E.I. and New Brunswick, in September 2008. Sales at full-service restaurants went up 0.7 per cent. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

3

# Local

## Housing **Painting a new start**



CIBC employee Kelly Harley paints in a Metro Community Housing Association apartment yesterday. Harley and several of her colleagues from CIBC branches across metro spent the day painting at the apartment for the United Way.

## High school teacher faces sex charges

JENNIFER TAPLIN  
jennifer.taplin@metronews.ca

### A retired Dartmouth high school teacher and Scouts leader has been charged with sexual assaults.

The two males involved were under 18 at the time. The alleged offences were not connected to either his teaching job, or his volunteering with Scouts Canada.

Wayne Wendell Born was in court on Monday to face four sex offence-related charges. The alleged incidents took place between 1970 and 2006 in the Enfield area.

"There was no plea, and he's going to have to go back to court," said RCMP Sgt. Mark Gallagher.

Born, 66, of Milford Station, Colchester Co., was released on conditions including he not contact the alleged victims and he remain in the province.

"If there are more people who wish to come speak to us in regards to any occurrences that may have happened with him, then certainly they can contact the Enfield detachment," Gallagher said.

"We'd certainly be more

### Scout process

Scouts Canada spokesperson Lisa Nowlan said volunteers undergo a "thorough" screening process, and Born was no different. It included an interview, reference checks and a police-record check.

"He would have had a clean record check," Nowlan said.

than interested in speaking with them."

Born was a teacher for 35 years. He finished his career at Dartmouth high school, teaching science from 1983 until he retired in 1995.

He was also a Scouts volunteer for 35 years, but was quickly suspended when the organization was told of the charges.

"We're shocked and disturbed at the charges," said Scouts Canada spokeswoman Lisa Nowlan.

Nowlan added the organization has been co-operating with police in this investigation.

Nowlan said Born had a number of roles within the Scouts over the years, but most recently he was working as an adviser with a group of teens aged 14 to 17.

## Opposition leaders call for budget update

**HOUSE** The legislature may sit more than 39 days this year after all, if the opposition gets its way.

The Liberal caucus lined up at a news conference to call on the government to release a financial update, as eight other provinces have done. They accused the Tories of waiting until the legislature to give the update.

Now they say Premier Rodney MacDonald should recall the house for an emergency session when the update is released.

"We as Nova Scotians have not been well-served in this sitting of the legislature," said Liberal Leader Stephen McNeil. "The fact (is) that we're debating what our provincial horse is going to be and all of the sudden the lights get turned on that hockey is our provincial sport, and yet we refuse to talk about the most important issue facing the lives of Nova Scotians."

NDP Leader Darrell Dexter said the government had two options. It could recall the House of Assembly, or strike up the public accounts committee. Either way, the economy must be debated, said Dexter.

A statement from the premier's office said there is no need to recall the house and the budget will be balanced. MacDonald has insisted on sticking to the planned budget update before the end of December.

"I want to make sure we provide a full picture to the public," said MacDonald on the last day of the legislature. **PAUL MCLEOD/METRO HALIFAX**

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What's online today.

**Watch** witnesses react to the deadly collapse of a Montreal parkade at metronews.ca/canada  
**Watch** sealers outraged at report into fatal capsizing at metronews.ca/canada

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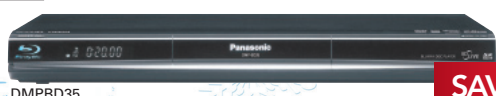
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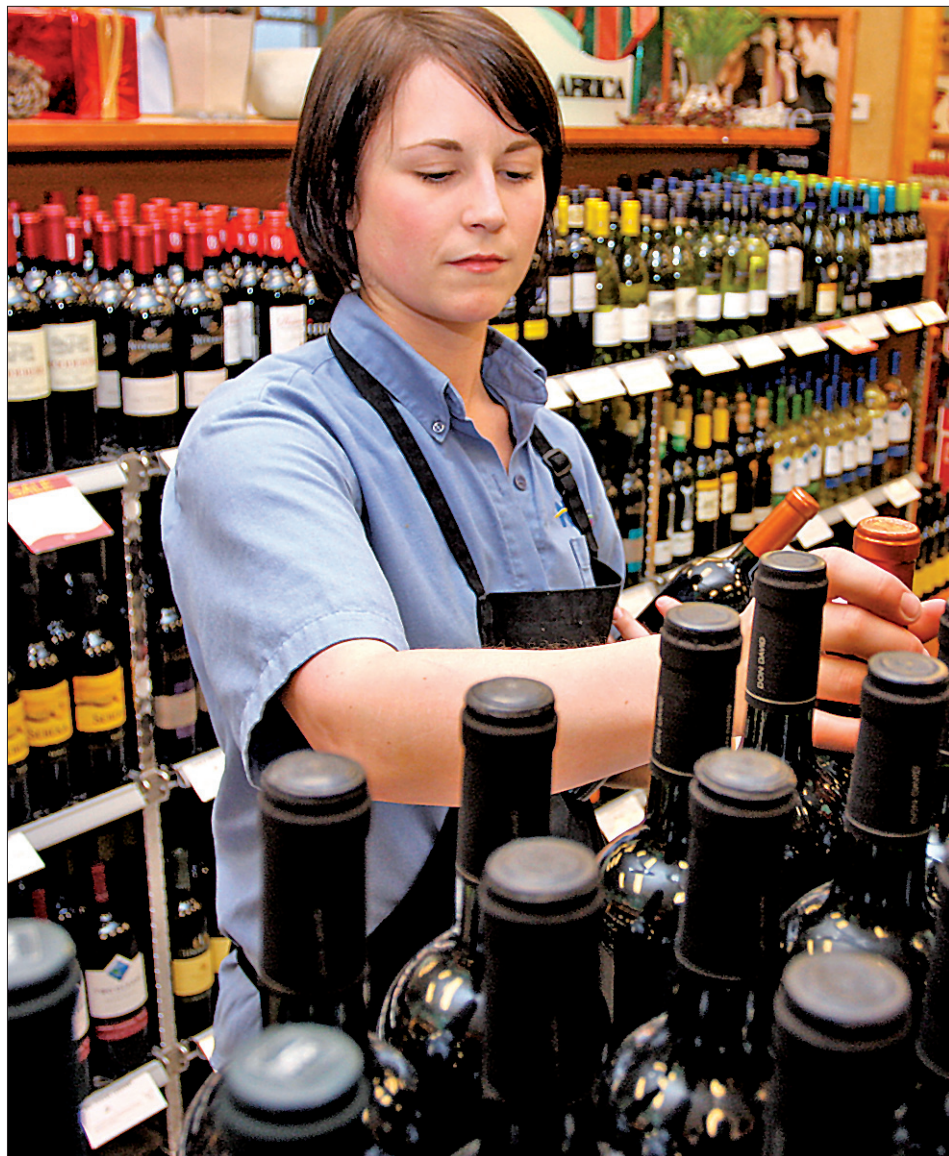
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## 4 local

### Two new Dartmouth Crown attorneys appointed

There are two new Crown attorneys in Dartmouth. Sandi MacKinnon and Michelle James were appointed yesterday. **METRO HALIFAX**



RVAN TAPLIN / METRO HALIFAX

Danielle Frenette, an employee at the NSLC on Young Street, stocks a wine shelf yesterday. The NSLC released its second-quarter results and reported a net income of \$62.8 million.

# Sales spike at NSLC

## Second-quarter profits up seven per cent

JENNIFER TAPLIN  
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### NSLC sales trends Between June and Sept.

#### When times get tough, some people get drinking.

Yesterday, the Nova Scotia Liquor Corp. released its profits for the second quarter (June to September). Sales are up nearly seven per cent compared to last year at this time, with a net income of \$62.8 million. Gross sales were \$160.6 million.

With a possible recession on the way, it's possible more people will turn to liquid comfort.

"I don't know, maybe," said NSLC spokesman Rick Perkins.

"It is a discretionary purchase, so how much they spend and what they buy can change."

Customers might spend less or buy cheaper items given tighter economic times, he explained.

Since the fall, the NSLC

- Wine sales increased by 5.8 per cent. That's down, since usually wine increases between eight and 10 per cent.

- Beer increased 4.2 per cent. That's a big increase, since beer stays relatively flat at only a 0.5 to one per cent increase.

- Spirits increased 4.3 per cent.

- In the first two quarters, the NSLC sold 449,000 hectolitres.

- Sales were also up in restaurants, pubs, bars, specialty stores and the rural stores that sell NSLC products.

has seen good and bad sales weeks.

"There's a bit of volatility out there right now in even our sales. Our growth of wine is slower than it has been, but our growth

of beer has been stronger," Perkins said.

Beer sales, especially in July, were actually a large factor in the overall sales increase.

"The weather was great and that always impacts beer sales," Perkins said.

Plus good promotions like straw cowboy hats in boxes of Corona beer were very effective.

"I saw them all over the place. That was incredibly popular," he said.

"Those sales in July were so good that it really came through in the quarter."

The NSLC is currently in the most important quarter of the year — October to December — and its watching sales numbers very carefully.

"We're not making a projection right now that 100 per cent we'll meet our business target, because we're unsure based on what other retailers are saying, too."

### News in brief

**CRASH** A two-vehicle accident at Burnside Drive and Portland Street early Tuesday evening

left both drivers with minor injuries, after one driver failed to yield. EHS treated one of the

drivers on site, and the other was taken to Dartmouth General Hospital. **METRO HALIFAX**



**Looking to get into the Christmas spirit?**

Visit the Dartmouth tree lighting this Saturday, 4:30 p.m., at Sullivan's Pond, or check out the Bedford tree lighting on Monday, Dec. 1, at 6 p.m. There will be choirs singing at both, and other entertainment. **METRO HALIFAX**

# A pilgrimage for love and community

**KAMIA CREELMAN**  
for Metro Halifax

**Last spring, 67-year-old Terry Michalopoulos fulfilled a promise he had made to his wife Anna before she died. He walked 820 kilometres through northern Spain.**

The Camino de Santiago de Compostela has been a popular pilgrim's journey

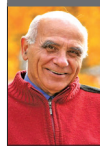
for more than 1,000 years. Today, some walk it for vacation, some for personal challenge and some, still, for spiritual reasons. Michalopoulos walked it to raise \$3,500 for the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Nova Scotia. Anna died of heart and lung disease.

But Michalopoulos' journey started long before he took the first of what he estimates were 1,800,000 steps. He

promised Anna he would go back to university and contribute to the community.

After enrolling in Management 1000 at Dalhousie University, Michalopoulos created a business plan for a foundation as part of the course. But the project didn't end with the class.

Michalopoulos credits his success to working on something he deeply cares about. He said you can do both:



**"I relate the journey to life."**

Terry Michalopoulos

Be a good businessman and not forget your community, or your hospitals. He is making the pilgrimage again this spring and he plans to make it an annual fundraiser.

The first day of the pilgrimage was the most difficult. He started in France and climbed the Pyrennes in 13 hours. At first, he said, all he thought about was the challenge, but as the days wore on, he forgot the destination and only thought about the journey.

"I relate the journey to life," he said.

After a particularly hard day, he said, he shrugged off

his heavy pack and felt he was unloading regret.

"I sometimes think why didn't I quit my job earlier to spend time with Anna after she got sick. But I have to let that go."

Remembering the nights in hostels, Michalopoulos laughed, "Of all the hardships, you hope no one will snore. At night there could be a base, a tenor — it's a symphony."



Taxi driver Mohammed Al-sharmani has seen a sharp decrease in customers and tips in the last month.

## 'Tis not the taxi season in Halifax

**PAUL MCLEOD**  
paul.mcleod@metronews.ca

In what's supposed to be their most profitable season, taxi drivers are seeing their business decimated by the economic recession.

Belt tightening across the board has lead to fewer people calling cabs to get around.

"As a taxi driver, these should be the busiest months, November and December," said Halifax taxi driver Mohammed Al-sharmani. "There's Christmas shopping and all that stuff. But it's really slow. It's busy when there's snow or rain, but that doesn't happen every day."

Al-sharmani has driven a cab for the past four years, and said he's seen about a 50 per cent dropoff in business this November.

With a wife and three children, he's now worried

there isn't enough money in cab driving to support his family.

"With this job in this type of economy, it's really hard and difficult," he said. "With all the expenses of the taxi, I'm not making anything."

It's reached the point where Al-sharmani is thinking of quitting the job and taking up a new vocation. The problem is, with the economy taking a downward turn, he doesn't know what field to enter.

So far, he's looked into taking an aircraft-maintenance engineering course because he's heard jobs are needed in the field. But for now, he's hoping and talking to his passengers about what they think will happen. And he believes other drivers are doing the same.

"If I'm busy, that means 610 taxis are busy. If it's slow for me, it's slow for everybody," he said.

### News in brief

**EMPLOYMENT** Genome Atlantic, a non-profit organization that invests in and manages large-scale gene discovery research, announced

the addition of four employees to its Halifax head office: Nil d'Entremont, Krista Melville, Sue Coueslan and Rose Marie Amaral. **METRO HALIFAX**

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MON - FRI, 9-9  
SATURDAY, 9-6  
SUNDAY, 12-5



# School board decides against pay raises

PAUL MCLEOD  
paul.mcleod@metronews.ca

The new Halifax Regional School Board chose not to give themselves a raise

yesterday.

The board were authorized to give themselves a pay increase of at least \$1,000, but voted not to because of tough fiscal times.

Board members currently make \$8,200 and the chair, Irvine Carvery, makes \$13,500. They were able to raise their salaries to \$9,300 for members and \$15,300 for the chair.

But board member David Cameron spoke out against such a raise.

"We all know these are trying times economically," said Cameron.

"It seems to me this is

not the time for us to be raising our own salaries."

Cameron also said the new board hadn't earned the pay increase yet, since it had just been elected after the previous board was disbanded by the province due to infighting.

Cameron's motion to delay a raise was accepted.

Typically, the board's salaries are reviewed every four years. But Cameron's motion now brings back the subject in a year so members can vote on it again.

The vote came minutes after chair Irvine Carvery gave a grim outlook of the budget after the passing of new provincial legislation. The province passed a bill that required offering free lunch supervision to all students.

Currently, bus students get free supervision, but parents of students within walking distance have to pay a fee for the program. The board estimates the added cost could reach as high as \$2 million.

**"It seems to me this is not the time for us to be raising our own salaries."**

David Cameron, board member

## Family looking for answers in Megeney's 'friendly fire' death

**NEW GLASGOW** Karen Megeney is hoping that she will soon know what happened on the evening her son died almost two years ago in Afghanistan.

Cpl. Kevin Megeney was in his tent at the Kandahar Airfield on March 6, 2007, when he died in what the military described at the time as a "friendly fire" incident.

Cpl. Matthew Wilcox, 23, of Glace Bay is charged with manslaughter, criminal negligence causing death and negligently performing a military duty in Megeney's death.

Karen and Dexter Megeney say they have never been told exactly what happened the day their 25-year-old son died. "Kevin came home from work and that's all that I know that happened," said Karen, her voice choked with tears. "We need answers."

Wilcox made his first appearance at a court martial in Sydney on Monday. The trial before a military panel

is scheduled to begin June 1, although dates are set in January, February and May for pre-trial applications.

Karen said she feels sympathy for Wilcox and his family, but is anxious for the trial to proceed.

"He has to go to trial so Kevin's family can know what happened that day," she said. "It has to go to court so we can find out what happened and get some answers, and the only way we'll know is if it comes from the court."

Outside the court martial on Monday, defence lawyer Lt.-Col. Troy Sweet said Wilcox has been under an emotional strain.

"Certainly, he is very sad of course at the loss of a comrade in arms, somebody he knew," he said. "And it's difficult to deal with a homicide case at the very least. So he is progressing through this, but he is confident in how it is proceeding."

TRANSCONTINENTAL MEDIA

## Ski hill eyes mid-December opening

**WENTWORTH** Skiers and snowboarders will have to wait a little bit longer to hit the slopes.

Ski Wentworth remains closed despite the first snowfall of the season.

"It wasn't enough to open, but enough to get you excited," said general manager Leslie Wilson. "We'll be making snow

just as soon as we can."

The hill is looking at Saturday, Dec. 13, as its tentative opening day. Wilson said there is nothing like Mother Nature to get people thinking about the upcoming season.

The hill will host its annual ski swap and craft sale this weekend.

TRURO DAILY NEWS

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**Bloomfield master plan ready for unveiling**

Bloomfield devotees, it's time to have your say. The city will hold a community session Thursday, Dec. 4 at 6 p.m. to present its draft master plan for the site. The community centre became a hot topic in 2005, after the city said it was hemorrhaging \$100,000 a year. **METRO HALIFAX**

# Flu-like virus killing cats at Truro shelter

**More than two dozen kittens have died in a Truro shelter after battling a flu-like virus.**

Darlene Miller, a technician at the Colchester SPCA, told the Truro Daily News at least 25 kitten fatalities have occurred over the last number of weeks

after being infected with a virus in the shelter.

"Kittens have a sensitive immune system and being in close quarters does not help," said Miller.

Yvonne Higgins, president of the SPCA, said infected cats experience runny eyes, congestion,

coughing and aches, much like what humans endure.

"We have isolated the affected kittens and are giving them medication. Part of the problem is that we are overpopulated."

Higgins said the shelter has more than 80 kit-

tens/cats and was originally built for 40 cats and six dogs.

The community can help the situation, said Higgins. Financial donations to the non-profit shelter would help accumulating veterinary bills. In addition, families are

needed to adopt kittens. Higgins said there are many healthy kittens at the shelter that need a good home and adoptions would also reduce the overpopulation and ultimately help in the resistance to the virus at the shelter.

She does, however, warn against getting an animal as a Christmas gift.

"Often they can be ignored for toys or guests and there's too much excitement and dangers at Christmas for a new animal in the house," said Higgins. **TRURO DAILY NEWS**

## Workers' Comp says fishers face high injury risk

**SAFETY** With the lobster season underway and fishermen in southwest Nova Scotia leaving their ports, the Workers' Compensation Board of Nova Scotia says workplace injury continues to have a major impact on the province's fishing industry.

In 2007, there were 406 fishing industry claims submitted to the WCB. Of those injuries, 140 resulted in the worker losing time from work. Nine fishing industry workers have died on the job between 2003 and 2007. These stats reflect only WCB-covered operations.

Employers with three or more employees are required to have coverage, but because many fishing operations are smaller, not all injuries or fatalities would appear in WCB statistics. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

## News in brief

**ACCESSIBILITY** The Hants County Community Access Network will soon start handing out surveys on local-business accessibility to those in the area directly impacted by physical disabilities. Survey co-ordinator Jodie Stevens said a person living with physical barriers or the parent or caregiver of someone living with those challenges should expect to receive a copy of this survey either in the mail or directly. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**



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# Skull found in church

Contractors' discovery of human remains prompts RCMP investigation

PAUL MCLEOD  
paul.mcleod@metronews.ca

## wall of an old church in Parrsboro.

Contractors working on First Baptist Church in the town were excavating a section of wall that was added to the church about

60 years ago when the portion of skull rolled out from inside the wall.

After calling the RCMP and Medical Examiner's Office, Saint Mary's University forensic anthro-

pologist Tanya Peckmann and four graduate students were eventually called it.

There is a church cemetery two kilometers away but no records of burials near the church.

## Church history

- The church was built in 1867, but the area where the skull was found was added in 1945.

# Store owners beware of fraud, cops say

RACHEL BOOMER  
rachel.boomer@metronews.ca

**COUNTERFEIT** Retailers, don't get hosed this holiday. Halifax regional police are warning store owners to train their employees about recognizing counterfeit money, and to avoid credit card fraud.

"I don't think counterfeit money or credit-card scams are more prevalent during the holiday season, but there's more shopping during the holiday season," Const. Jeff Carr said yesterday.

"It only stands to reason that fraudulent activity increases, too."

Lately, building supply and equipment-sales companies have been targeted by a scam where crooks use stolen credit card information to buy items by phone. Since they've never seen the

**"There's more shopping during the holiday season. It only stands to reason that fraudulent activity increases, too."**

Const. Jeff Carr

physical card, checked signatures or asked for ID, the companies don't find out until later that they've lost merchandise.

Carr said stores should be sure to always ask to see the card and, if they're suspicious about the transaction, ask the person for photo ID.

Meanwhile, store employees should familiarize themselves with the security features on real banknotes so they can easily recognize counterfeit ones.

Visit [www.police.halifax.ca](http://www.police.halifax.ca) and click on Fraud Alert, or call the Integrated Financial Crime section at 490-1985 for tips.

# Cops find arsenal in known drug house

**CRIME** A known drug house was put out of business in Hilden on Tuesday as police stormed through the front door.

The Colchester integrated street crime unit led the investigation and brought in the RCMP's emergency response team (ERT) for the 2:30 p.m. bust in downtown Hilden. The seizure occurred above the former Pizza Express building on Highway 2.

"We had information that outside of the drugs we believed to be here, there was also some weapons, so we had the RCMP ERT team do an entry," Truro police Sgt. Rob Hearn said. "A number of weapons were recovered. We have (also) recovered marijuana, ecstasy and some cocaine."

While the drugs had not been weighed, there were two bags of marijuana seized. The weapons included two modified and loaded shotguns, a gun



An integrated investigation resulted in a number of weapons and drugs seized from a Hilden apartment on Tuesday.

which looked like a .30-.30 with a scope, a .22 rifle and ammunition. There were also pellet guns, a bow and arrow, a crossbow, swords, drug paraphernalia and surveillance cameras.

Hearn said the pellet

guns looked real and were in various locations throughout the second-floor apartment. One gun that looked like a Magnum was stuffed under a cushion in a couch.

"The weapons are a big concern," Hearn said. "To

find this kind of stuff in a drug house is not uncommon in the city, and we have found weapons in drug houses within the town and the county but of this quantity, it's certainly a concern."

Two adult males and two

adult females, all from Colchester County, were inside the apartment and were arrested during the bust. No one was injured in the seizure.

"Everybody worked together and everybody's going home safe," Hearn said noting about 20 officers, including Truro police, Colchester County RCMP, Millbrook RCMP and the ERT were involved in the investigation.

Police were expected to be at the scene for about five hours.

The integrated unit is comprised of a member from each of the Truro Police Service and Colchester County RCMP detachment.

"The unit has been working out really well and hopefully this will put a kink in their business," said Cpl. Sharon Sisson, Colchester County RCMP. Police believe drugs were being sold out of the building, which had surveillance cameras.

TRURO DAILY NEWS

# No cops charged for bar scuffle

**TRURO** Off-duty Truro police officers will not be charged for their involvement in a disturbance outside a downtown bar in early October.

Halifax Regional Police found no evidence for charges after conducting an investigation, at the request of Truro Police Service Chief David MacNeil.

"Their criminal investigation is completed so there's no new charges that are coming," MacNeil said.

He asked for the Halifax police to conduct the investigation to ensure it was impartial, open and transparent.

"These officers are from another police agency, they came here and did the investigation and I am confident in the Halifax Regional Police's investigation," MacNeil said.

The incident happened around 1:40 a.m. on Oct. 3 outside the Warehouse Bars and involved five civilians and five off-duty Truro Police Service officers.

Three people have been charged in the investigation and the matter is still before the courts.

A Police Act investigation is also underway and is being conducted by Bridgewater Chief Brent Crowhurst.

TRURO DAILY NEWS

# Westville wants to see the torch

**OLYMPICS** Westville Coun. Charlie Sutherland wants the Olympic torch to light up Westville next year.

Sutherland said the cross-Canada torch relay route was recently announced, and while Trenton, New Glasgow and Stellarton all made the list of whistle stops along the way, Westville did not. "I don't know how it could leave Pictou County without going past Exit 21," said the longtime councillor.

On Nov. 17, 2009, the Olympic torch will leave Port Hawkesbury on Day 19 of the relay and will travel through Pictou County before moving west to the Truro-Bible Hill area.

At Sutherland's urging, council will write to political leaders at the provincial and federal level to try to make Westville part of the torch relay.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



**Ontario hints at axing driver restrictions**

Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty admits he is getting an earful about proposed driver's licence changes — especially from young people — and he has hinted the government could back off on restrictions that limit how many passengers teenage drivers can have. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

9

# Canada



## Passengers stranded nine hours

A routine bus trip turned into a nine-hour test of survival for a group of northern Manitobans. A Grey Goose bus carrying 13 passengers broke down just before 11 p.m. Sunday, and it wasn't until 8 a.m. Monday that the first vehicle passed by the stranded passengers. The driver was unable to make contact via wireless radio since the bus was halted in an area that is a "dead zone" for the device.

CBC NEWS ONLINE

## More troops off to Afghanistan

**Canada is sending 250 more military personnel to Afghanistan, an increase of 10 per cent, to help deploy helicopters and drones in the country, a Defence Department spokesman said yesterday.**

Defence Minister Peter MacKay said eight Griffon helicopters would be sent to Afghanistan early next year to act as escort aircraft for recently acquired Chinook medium-to heavy-lift choppers. Canada is also taking delivery of unmanned aerial vehicles to help with reconnaissance.

MacKay spokesman Dan

Dugas said the aerial deployment would increase the number of Canadian Forces personnel to 2,750 from 2,500.

The announcement was made on the same day that Afghan President Hamid Karzai told a news conference in Afghanistan that he would bring down U.S. planes bombing villages if he could.

Trade Minister Stockwell Day, head of a cabinet committee on Afghanistan, said Karzai's remarks were made during an election campaign but said he could not understand them. **REUTERS**

### Pullout

- Day added that Canada was in Afghanistan at the invitation of government, and would remain until its troops are scheduled to pull out in 2011

## University of Calgary Pro-life demonstration



Pro-life group members at the U of C were informed they and their displays were trespassing on university property yesterday, prompting campus security to get the Calgary police involved. U of C initially threatened the pro-life group with possible arrest and expulsion if they erected the signs, but yesterday campus security informed seven members of the group they were trespassing on university property. The police then issued summonses.

## No Canadians hurt in Mumbai attacks

**BOMBING** Canada condemned the attacks in Mumbai but said yesterday it has no reports of Canadians being killed or wounded.

All members of Canada's consulate staff in Mumbai, India's financial capital, have been accounted for, Foreign Minister Lawrence Cannon said. **REUTERS**

### News in brief

**FUNDING** The Tories, fending off complaints that they are moving too slowly on a stimulus package for the economy, said yesterday it would probably deliver its economic boost faster than the United States.

**ELECTRIC POWER** The B.C. government is spending \$400,000 to convert its fleet of vehicles to electric power. **REUTERS**

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Brazil sent hundreds of state and federal police officers yesterday to quell looting by homeless and hungry landslide victims facing the threat of disease after heavy flooding that authorities say killed more than 100 people and displaced 54,000. **REUTERS**

# World



## A polar bear gender bender

Handlers of a popular polar bear, brought to mate with a female in a zoo in northern Japan, found their breeding plan was doomed when they noticed that he, in fact, was a she. Tsuyoshi, a four-year-old, 200 kg (441 lb) cream-colored polar bear, had been living in harmony with a female polar bear since June. The two often playing together, Masako Inoue, a zookeeper at the Kushiro Municipal Zoo, said yesterday. **REUTERS**

## MySpace mom guilty

Could face up to 3 years in jail but cleared of felonies

**A suburban mother who prosecutors say drove a love-struck 13-year-old girl to suicide by tormenting her with a fake MySpace persona was acquitted yesterday of the most serious charges against her.**

Lori Drew was found guilty of three misdemeanor counts in the high-profile case, which made worldwide headlines and prompted calls for social networking sites like MySpace to crack down on such activities.

She was cleared of three felonies by the U.S. District Court jury, which deadlocked on a fourth count of conspiracy.

Drew, who created the fake profile after her daughter and neighbour

Megan Meier had a falling out, showed no reaction as the verdicts were read.

The Missouri woman will face a sentence ranging from probation to three years behind bars for the misdemeanor convictions. She could have been sent to federal prison for up to 20 years if she had been convicted on the felony charges.

Prosecutors say Drew and others created the fake MySpace persona of a 16-year-old boy to woo Meier for several weeks, then abruptly ended the relationship and said the world would be better off without her.

Meier hanged herself in October 2006, just hours after she had read those final messages. **REUTERS**



Tina Meier, mother of Megan Meier, speaks at a news conference in Los Angeles yesterday. Lori Drew was convicted of three misdemeanor federal charges for helping create a fake MySpace account and tormenting Megan Meier, a 13-year-old girl, who wound up committing suicide. **REUTERS**

## U.S. condemns Mumbai attacks

**INDIA** The White House and president-elect Barack Obama yesterday condemned the deadly attacks in Mumbai, India, as the U.S. government convened defence and intelligence officials and offered help to Indian authorities.

"President Bush offers his condolences to the Indian people and the families of the innocent civilians killed and injured in the attacks in Mumbai," the White House said in a statement issued after the U.S. leader left for the Camp David presidential retreat in Maryland for the Thanksgiving holiday.

It said the White House National Security Council had convened officials from counterterrorism and intelligence agencies as well as the State Department and Pentagon to dis-

### Hostages

- Indian television reported that Western hostages were being held in two five-star hotels where gunmen had carried out co-ordinated strikes.

cuss the Mumbai attacks.

"The U.S. government continues to monitor the situation, including the safety and security of our citizens, and stands ready to assist and support the Indian government," the White House said.

The State Department said there were no known American casualties in the attacks, in which at least 86 people were killed and 250 wounded, but the White House said it was still "assessing the hostage situation." **REUTERS**

### News in brief

**THAILAND** Pressure built on Thailand's military to intervene in a political crisis threatening to descend into widespread civil unrest earlier today after Prime Minister Somchai Wongsawat rejected calls to quit.

**PIRACY** The Somali pirate "mother ship" that the Indian Navy sank in the Gulf of Aden last week was actually a Thai ship that was being hijacked, an anti-piracy watchdog said yesterday. **REUTERS**

## Israeli PM Olmert may face tax evasion, bribery charges

Israel's attorney general said yesterday he was considering indicting Prime Minister Ehud Olmert for fraud, bribery and tax evasion in a case over fake travel expenses that has already forced him to resign.

Olmert is serving as caretaker prime minister until a new government is formed after a Feb. 10 election, but an indictment could increase pressure on him to leave office earlier. Attorney General Men-

### Border

- Israel reopened its border crossings with the Hamas-run Gaza Strip yesterday, allowing in limited amounts of food and fuel.

achem Mazuz told Olmert he was "considering bringing criminal charges regarding suspicions of various violations as part of the Rishon Tours Affair," a statement said. **REUTERS**

## N.Y.C. al-Qaida attack feared

**TERRORISM** U.S. authorities have warned of a possible al-Qaida threat to transit systems in and around New York City, a Homeland Security official said yesterday.

New York police said they were increasing security in response to the warning but said this was "in an abundance of caution." The warning comes at the start of the Thanksgiving holiday weekend, one of the busiest U.S. travel periods of the year.

"The New York City Police Department is aware of an unsubstantiated report indicating that al-Qaida terrorists discussed targeting mass transit in New York City and the vicinity," Deputy Police Commissioner Paul Browne told Reuters.

Browne said: "In an abundance of caution, the NYPD has deployed additional resources in the mass transit system." **REUTERS**

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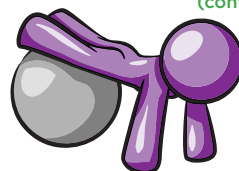
Research shows that short bouts of intense exercise can enhance weight loss, cardiovascular fitness, muscle mass, strength and mood.

Vary your weekly exercise routine to include walking briskly, climbing stairs,

sit-ups and push-ups, squats, and stretching. Many can be done at the office or close-by.

Just taking a few minutes a day to prepare a nutritious lunch will give you something delicious to enjoy at your desk post-workout. Make sure to stay hydrated by drinking lots of water throughout the day.

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## Rome's bird-busters

Rome's leaders have found an unusual solution to the millions of starlings that invade the city each fall: An ear-splitting recording of bird calls used to scare them away from the city. The birds are considered a hazard to motorists and to the city's monuments. **REUTERS**

Kidnapping **Video released of aid worker**

REUTERS / HANDOUT

Video footage obtained yesterday by Reuters shows kidnapped French aid worker Dany Egret with rifles pointed at him at an unknown location. Egret, who was kidnapped in Kabul on Nov. 3, pleaded for his life as gunmen held assault rifles to his head.

## Taliban shrugs off strikes

**A Pakistani Taliban commander vowed yesterday to keep up cross-border attacks on Western forces in Afghanistan, despite stepped up U.S. missile strikes by pilotless drones on militants in Pakistan.**

U.S. forces in Afghanistan have carried out at least 26 air strikes by unmanned aircraft on militant targets in northwest Pakistan this year, according to a Reuters tally, more than half since the start of September.

At the same time, Pakistani security forces have launched major operations against militants in parts of the Pashtun tribal belt along the Afghan border.

**"They have carried out drone attacks in Afghanistan also, but they failed to dampen our spirit."**

Hakeemullah Mehsud

But Hakeemullah Mehsud, a deputy to Pakistani Taliban leader Baitullah Mehsud, shrugged off both the U.S. missile strikes and the Pakistani army offensive, saying the Taliban would press on with their "jihad," or Muslim holy war.

"We are constantly sending our fighters into Afghanistan, and our operations are continuing

there," Hakeemullah said on a rare trip to a Taliban stronghold in the Orakzai tribal region, south of the city of Peshawar. The U.S. drone strikes were doomed to fail, he said.

"They have carried out drone attacks in Afghanistan also, but they failed to dampen our spirit. Eventually, we will win."

Security has deteriorated sharply in both Pakistan and Afghanistan seven years after U.S. soldiers and Afghan allies drove the Taliban from power in Afghanistan. The violence has raised grave doubts about the success of international efforts to bring peace and stability to Pakistan. **REUTERS**

## Bin Laden's driver sent to Yemen from Guantanamo

**TERRORISM** Osama bin Laden's former driver has arrived home in Yemen after being released from Guantanamo prison, a Yemeni official said yesterday.

The official confirmed Salim Hamdan would serve in Yemen the remainder of his sentence handed out to him by a U.S. court for providing material support for terrorism.

Hamdan was the first to be convicted in a full trial of the widely criticized tribunals set up by the Bush administration and the U.S. Congress to try non-Americans on terrorism charges outside civilian and military courts.

In the first U.S. war-

crimes trial since the Second World War, Hamdan was convicted in August of providing personal services in support of terrorism,

**Criticism**

- The Guantanamo tribunals have been condemned by human-rights groups and constitutional scholars who argue the tribunals were rigged by allowing evidence obtained through coercion, hearsay and torture.

by driving and guarding al-Qaida's leader.

Hamdan was sentenced to 66 months in prison but given credit for some of the time served at

Guantanamo, so that his term was set to end by Dec. 31.

Hamdan, who is about 40, acknowledged he was part of bin Laden's motor pool in Afghanistan but he said he took the job because he needed the \$200 US monthly salary and did not know or support his employer's aims. **REUTERS**

## Afghani president wishes to bring down U.S. planes

**AFGHANISTAN** President Hamid Karzai said yesterday he would bring down U.S. planes bombing villages if he could, in a sign of tension between Afghanistan and its Western backers.

Karzai has recently blamed the West for worsening security in Afghanistan, saying NATO failed to target Taliban and al-Qaida sanctuaries in Pakistan.

He said if he had something like the rock attached to a piece of string, known as a chelak, used to bring down kites, he would use it. "We have no radar to stop them in the sky, we have no planes," he said. **REUTERS**

**News in brief**

**SPACE** The shuttle Endeavour astronauts packed samples from the International Space Station's revived urine-recycling system yesterday and prepared to leave the outpost after a successful home-makeover mission. The astronauts collected more than six quarts of recycled urine and other wastewater for analysis.

**COURT** U.S. appeals court cleared the way for prosecutors to use previously barred evidence against a former Alaska legislator. Rep. Bruce Weyhrauch, a lawyer, was indicted in 2007 for allegedly soliciting legal work from Veco Corp in exchange for voting as the company instructed him on an oil-tax vote. He was charged with conspiracy, bribery, attempted extortion and mail fraud. **REUTERS**

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# Comment & Views

## Comment

# No second chances

Paul Martin should not lead Liberals despite calls for support

Home&Abroad



Andrew Cohen

Canada & world insight

Could the next leader of the Liberal Party of Canada be the one before the last one? Could it be Paul Martin?

Sheila Copps, the former deputy prime minister, reports that some Liberals are dreaming of a "Draft Martin" movement. They believe that the three declared leadership contenders lack Martin's economic experience.

With the economy in recession and the budget in deficit, she writes, a former finance minister who balanced the budget and presided over a surging economy may emerge as

the man on horseback. At least that's the hope.

"Some Martinites ... are rallying to the former finance minister to save the day and deliver 'the natural governing party' back where it belongs, in power," she writes in *The Hill Times*.

An intriguing idea. After all, Martin has just published his memoir, giving him the opportunity to reintroduce and reinvent himself. Predictably, he is reminding Canadians of his exemplary economic stewardship.

Martin can take some proprietary pride, for example, in the recent gathering of the leaders of leading in-

dustrialized countries. He proposed a broader organization of nations in a ghost-written article a few years ago in *Foreign Affairs*, the organ of the American foreign policy establishment.

So here we have an economic crisis, a leadership contest and a former politician who may be out of politics — he gave up his seat in the last election — but not out of ambition. Does all that mean Martin Redux? A triumphant return from exile in Elba?

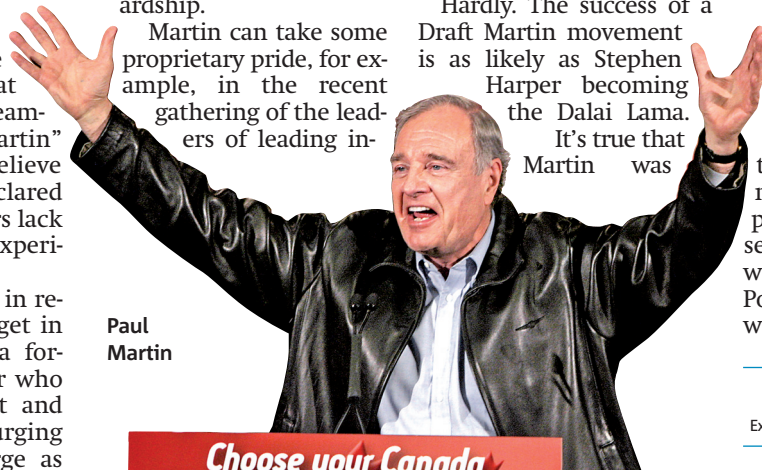
Hardly. The success of a Draft Martin movement is as likely as Stephen Harper becoming the Dalai Lama.

It's true that Martin was

among the most successful finance ministers in our history. He inherited a ruinous situation, slew the deficit, cut taxes and laid the groundwork for the dazzling growth of the next decade.

But he was a better finance minister than he was a prime minister, where he rose to a new level of indecision and ineptitude. Politically, he had mounted a coup d'état against Jean Chrétien, who had won three majorities. He offered none of his rivals — including Copps and John Manley — a place in his cabinet. Then he tried to unseat those Liberals who opposed him, including Copps.

This civil war weakened the party. Martin lost his majority in 2004 and lost power in 2006. He deserved what he got and he won't get a second chance. Politics doesn't work that way.



Paul Martin

Choose your Canada

Andrew Cohen, a professor and journalist, is the author of *Extraordinary Canadians: Lester B. Pearson*.



MICHAEL DE ADOR

## Letters

### Student body's take on cystic fibrosis appalling

Re: Carleton drops Shinerna, Nov. 26.

I was appalled by Carleton University Students' Association's decision on an annual fundraiser for cystic fibrosis. My first thought was how ignorant. The second thought was about my family.

My father was the president of the Kinsman Club in P.E.I. in the 1960s. He was one of the pioneers of the shoeshine drive. My brother and sister both had cystic fibrosis. My mother recently passed away this year and she left \$5,000 for the CF Foundation in her will. She would be turning in her grave if she saw the story.

LESLIE MILLAR  
DARTMOUTH, N.S.

pro-life, pro-family and pro-woman, all by choice.

RICARDO DI CECCA  
BURLINGTON

### Throne speech cartoon funny, not racist

Re: Canadian economy may be scary, but cartoon wasn't, Nov. 26.

The Nov. 20 cartoon of Michaëlle Jean was certainly not racist. It was mocking the throne speech that she delivered the day before, in which she presented a gloomy forecast for the economy. I think the cartoonist would have created a similar image no matter who the governor general was at the time. I found this cartoon quite humorous.

CHRIS A JOHNSTON  
HALIFAX

### Sarah Palin gives feminism a new twist

With all due respect, Andrew Cohen is in error when he characterizes Sarah Palin as "anti-feminist." In fact, she is the new face of feminism. Hillary's generation focused on breaking glass ceilings regarding career and sexual reproductive choices. The younger Palin-age group is

## Views

# No one's safe from identity thieves



Michael Shepherd

We all have heard about identity theft, but most of us think it will never happen to us — until it does. According to a CBC article last year, one in six Canadians have been victims of identity theft. It is the fastest growing white-collar crime in both Canada and the U.S., with losses in the U.S. amounting to over \$5 billion. I'll refrain from comparing this to the recent financial meltdown on Wall Street.

As a computer scientist of many years, I thought I was fairly safe. I have firewalls on my computers, I rarely

buy anything online, and I change my passwords frequently. But it was a paper transaction with a credit card that did me in.

My wife was in Sweden last spring and used a credit card that we seldom use. A month later, the bill came with a \$46 Canadian transaction on it, to a genealogy company we didn't recognize.

This was the "test" transaction by the people stealing my identity, checking to make sure the card was valid. The fraudsters were probably doing research that would allow them to steal my identity.

Luckily, a week later I called the credit-card company to complain about junk mail. During the process of trying to register my complaint, they had

### According to a CBC article, one in six Canadians have been victims of identity theft.

to verify my identity. Now there was a long pause at the other end, followed by "Are you sure you don't live on St. Clair East in Toronto?" The thieves had put my credit-card number together with personal information easily available on the web, to gain online access to the credit card company and change the information on my file.

I nipped this one in the bud and was not liable for the charges the thieves had rung up since the test transaction. But the prob-

lem is that such companies report all changes in your personal data to the credit bureaus — so three major credit bureaus now thought I lived in Toronto.

This was like opening Pandora's box. After a lot of angst and a lot of work, we were able to correct the information on file with the various agencies and put fraud alerts on all of our accounts. Still, some of the false information is out there and we are waiting for the next instalment.

The following site and the sites it links to have helpful hints for protecting yourself: [www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/scams/identity\\_theft\\_e.htm](http://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/scams/identity_theft_e.htm)

Michael Shepherd is the dean of the Faculty of Computer Science at Dalhousie University.

It's your turn to tell others what you think. E-mail your thoughts and opinions to: [halifaxletters@metronews.ca](mailto:halifaxletters@metronews.ca)

Letters must include sender's full name, address and phone number — street name and phone numbers will NOT be published. We reserve the right to edit letters.

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**Mexico proposes coin shrinkage**

Mexico wants to shrink the size of some of its coins and use stainless steel to make them instead of copper, zinc and nickel alloys, which have hit record prices in recent months. The use of metal coins has increased by about six per cent annually. **REUTERS**

**13**

# Business

EDITOR: FERMIN DESOUZA, FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

## Magna to spin off entertainment unit

**SPINOFF** Auto-parts magnate Frank Stronach will take direct control of Magna Entertainment Corp. under a complex plan announced by the struggling racetrack operator and its parent company yesterday.

Stronach controls the boards of both Magna Entertainment and MI Developments, MEC's controlling shareholder and the real-estate arm of autoparts giant Magna International.

MID's minority shareholders have long called for the company to split from Magna Entertainment, the group's money-losing horse-racing and gaming company, which counts U.S. racetracks Santa Anita and Pimlico among its holdings.

Past plans, however, have been sunk by infighting and legal wrangling among shareholders, some of whom thought the deals would have unfairly benefited Stronach.

"This reorganization proposal will deliver significant value to shareholders and better align the interests of all MID shareholders," said MID's CEO Denis Mills. **REUTERS**

### The plan

- MID would buy back \$240 million in shares.
- Stronach would buy MEC shares to give him up to a 60 per cent voting interest in the company.

## Wrench thrown into BCE deal

The \$52-billion purchase of BCE Inc. looks destined to die with a whimper — or more likely a sigh of relief — after an accounting firm said it was unlikely to sign off on a so-called "sol-

test" needed to complete the transaction.

After navigating a year-long storm of high-profile legal challenges and market crises, the world's biggest-ever leveraged buyout found itself thrown on the rocks yesterday after KPMG said it was unlikely to deliver "an opinion that BCE

**"My sense is, given market conditions, most of the protagonists in this might be just as happy to see the deal not done."**

Thomas Caldwell

would meet the solvency tests" by the deal's Dec. 11 deadline.

The Bell Canada parent said it was "disappointed" with the assessment and was reviewing the methodology used.

But amid a backdrop of faltering banks, freefalling markets and a looming global recession, there was little optimism that the buyers would also be pressing KPMG to change its mind given they can now bow out gracefully without paying the deal's hefty \$1.2

billion break fee.

"Convenient is an understatement," said Thomas Caldwell, the chair of Caldwell Financial Ltd., when asked whether the hurdle posed by KPMG would be welcomed by the players involved in the purchase.

"My sense is that, given market conditions, most of the protagonists in this might be just as happy to see the deal not done."

While KPMG said BCE's current public-company status does not raise solvency concerns, the picture apparently changes once \$32-billion worth of new debt is added to the phone company's balance sheet just as the country heads into an economic recession.

Shares of BCE plummeted yesterday, closing down nearly 35 per cent, or \$13.10, at \$25.25 on the Toronto Stock Exchange.

**TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

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## Retail woes Outta business



Two workers stand with going out of business sale signs in front of the Linens n Things store that is closing in a Paramus, N.J., strip mall last week. Shopping centres such as strip malls are reporting vacancy rates of 9.4 per cent, while larger, enclosed malls are faring better, with vacancy rates of about 3.9 per cent. The store closings have come as the U.S. economic downturn forces retailers to scale back expansion plans, close outposts or file for bankruptcy protection. The trend is expected to accelerate as the financial crisis has tightened credit, say retail analysts and restructuring experts.

## Toyota credit rating drops

**AUTOS** Toyota Motor Corp. had its top-notch credit ratings cut for the first time in a decade, hitting its shares and raising borrowing costs as an unprecedented slowdown reshapes the global auto industry.

Fitch Ratings yesterday downgraded Toyota's long-term foreign and local debt ratings to AA from AAA, with a negative outlook, saying the company needed to review its global investments, product mix and speed of expansion to

address the challenges it faces.

"The negative developments in the industry are so substantial and fundamental that even the strongest player — Toyota — can no longer support an AAA rating," said Fitch director Tatsuya Mizuno.

Sales in the U.S. and Europe have plunged as access to credit dried up, with the slowdown spreading to China, India, Russia and other markets seen as growth opportunities. **REUTERS**

## Chinese rates cut, EU plans stimulus

**ECONOMY** China cut interest rates by the biggest margin in 11 years, the European Union plotted a 200-billion euro stimulus plan, and U.S. president-elect Barack Obama added former Fed chief Paul Volcker to his team in the latest moves aimed at jolting the world out of its economic slowdown.

China cut its lending and deposit rates by 108 basis points, while new U.S. data showed consumer spending fell at the steepest rate in seven years in October, and consumer confidence hit a 28-year low this month. **REUTERS**

### In brief

**RETAIL** U.S. retailers are going to new lengths to encourage consumer spending this holiday, filling the air with pine and cinnamon scents, decking the halls with boughs of holly and tinsel, and lining up employees at store entrances to clap as customers enter.

**TAKEOVER** The Federal Reserve yesterday approved Bank of America Corp.'s purchase of investment bank Merrill Lynch & Co. for \$44 billion US, as announced in mid-September. Bank of America, the largest U.S. depository bank, has total consolidated assets of \$1.8 trillion, or roughly 11 per cent of the nation's total, the Fed said.

**REUTERS**

### THE DAILY BUSINESS BUZZ

#### Lixar expands into N.S.:

Lixar, an Ottawa-based technology company, is expanding to Nova Scotia. The company plans to create up to 50 new jobs over the next six years in Halifax, supported by a \$900,900 payroll rebate from Nova Scotia Business Inc.

#### NCCC/MacDonnell JV:

Nova Scotia Community College and the MacDonnell Group of Halifax have signed a memorandum of understanding to collaborate on basic security training and maritime security training, both domestically and internationally.

#### High hopes for Sex Show:

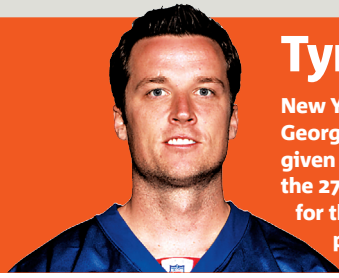
Organizers of the upcoming Everything To Do With Sex Show are confident the first show in Halifax will be a success. The show is expanding to other cities from Toronto. Organizers expect 10,000 people to attend the show, on at the Cunard Centre from Jan. 23 to 25.

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# Sports

SPORTS@METRONEWS.CA



## Tynes asks Bush for pardon

New York Giants kicker Lawrence Tynes, left, has asked the George W. Bush administration to commute a lengthy sentence given to his brother for distributing marijuana. Tynes maintains that the 27-year sentence that his brother Mark is serving was excessive for the crime. It is customary for outgoing U.S. presidents to grant pardons before they leave office.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

# Penguins rally to down Islanders

## Penguins 5 Islanders 3

**Evgeni Malkin scored a pair of goals in a span of 50 seconds to turn a Pittsburgh deficit into a lead, as the Penguins tallied four times in the third period to rally for a 5-3 victory over the New York Islanders at Nassau Coliseum.**

Malkin added an empty-netter to complete the natural hat trick and also assisted on Sidney Crosby's goal to start the third-period barrage. Crosby, a Cole Harbour native, added assists on Malkin's first two goals for the Penguins, who bounced back from a 3-1 loss to Vancouver on Saturday to improve to 8-1-1 in

their last 10 games. Brooks Orpik picked up a goal and an assist for Pittsburgh, which trailed 3-0.

Joey MacDonald of Bayview, Pictou Co., made 25 saves in defeat.

**Montreal 3 Detroit 1** — Tomas Plekanec's first goal in nine games proved to be the game-winner, as the Montreal Canadiens defeat-

ed the Detroit Red Wings 3-1 at Joe Louis Arena.

Maxim Lapierre and Christopher Higgins also scored for the Canadiens, who snapped a two-game slide. Carey Price stopped 32 shots to pick up the win.

**Buffalo 3 Boston 2** — Derek Roy scored twice and Ryan Miller made 27 saves, leading the Buffalo Sabres

to a 3-2 win over the surging Boston Bruins at HSBC Arena.

Jochen Hecht added a short-handed tally for the Sabres, who snapped a season-high five-game losing streak. Buffalo has fizzled after a 6-0-1 start to the 2008-09 campaign, going 4-8-2 in their last 14.

**Philadelphia 3 Carolina 1**

— Simon Gagne picked up three points on two goals and an assist to lead Philadelphia over Carolina 3-1 in the front end of a home-and-home series at RBC Center.

Matt Carle scored the other goal for the Flyers, who upped their season-best win streak to six games.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

## Raps' Bosh too much for Bobcats

**NBA** Chris Bosh scored 39 points and pulled down 11 rebounds, as the Toronto Raptors defeated the Charlotte Bobcats 93-86 at Air Canada Centre last night.

Bosh was 15-for-20 from the field and 9-for-10 from the free throw line for Toronto. Joey Graham had a season-high 17 points, while Andrea Bargnani had 11 points, nine rebounds and three blocked shots in the victory.

Gerald Wallace scored a team-high 23 points to go along with eight rebounds for the Bobcats, who have lost five of six. Jared Dudley tied a season-high with 13 points, while Emeka Okafor had 16 points and 14 rebounds in the loss

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## Browns QB Quinn done for season

**NFL** Cleveland Browns head coach Romeo Crennel announced yesterday that Brady Quinn's broken index finger on his right hand will end the quarterback's season.

"Brady is going to need time or surgery for his finger to heal," said Crennel.

"Brady will make a determination in the near future whether he'll take the time or have surgery to heal the finger."

Quinn injured the finger in his second career start, a 29-27 victory over the Buffalo Bills on Nov. 17.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

## SCOREBOARD

### QMJHL

	STANDINGS				
	W	L	OL	PTS	
Moncton	20	2	2	43	
Cape Breton	19	6	1	39	
Saint John	17	10	1	36	
Bathurst	11	13	4	28	
P.E.I.	11	13	1	27	
<b>HALIFAX</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>18</b>	

### YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Lewiston 9 Shawinigan 3  
Moncton 3 P.E.I. 2  
Cape Breton at Gatineau

### FRIDAY'S GAMES

**HALIFAX** at Moncton  
Acadie-Bathurst at Lewiston  
Baie-Comeau at Quebec  
Saint John at Drummondville  
Victoriaville at Gatineau  
P.E.I. at Rimouski  
Cape Breton at Rouyn-Noranda  
Chicoutimi at Shawinigan  
Montreal at Val-d'Or

### NHL

### YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Buffalo 3 Boston 2  
Philadelphia 3 Carolina 1  
Phoenix 3 Columbus 2  
Pittsburgh 5 N.Y. Islanders 3  
Washington 5 Atlanta 3  
N.Y. Rangers at Tampa Bay  
New Jersey at Florida  
Montreal at Detroit  
Dallas at Minnesota  
St. Louis at Colorado  
Los Angeles at Edmonton  
Chicago at San Jose

### TONIGHT'S GAMES

Toronto at Ottawa  
Calgary at Vancouver

# How much will Burke change the Leafs?

In terms of expecting an underdog season for the ages in Toronto, things are getting cloudier — and these ain't soft, puffy clouds; they're dark, ominous ones.

Yes, **Brian Burke** is likely on his way to town. Having said that, interim GM **Cliff Fletcher** has at least done some work on this twisted Rubik's Cube of a roster, but Burke will obviously do more.

In acquiring **Lee Stempniak** from St. Louis for **Carlo Colaiacovo** and **Alex Steen**, the Leafs essentially admitted their standards for success recently were far below the rest of the league's. After all, Steen was once touted as a future captain of the

## The Hockey News



thehockeynews.com

franchise and Colaiacovo made the squad as a 19-year-old in 2002-03, before quickly being sent back to junior. Both were first-round draft picks.

But it is Stempniak who shows the most promise of the three, and only Stempniak who has accomplished a 20-goal season (27 in '06-07) in the NHL.

In Tuesday's 6-3 loss to Atlanta, Stempniak showed off his skill set,

though obviously there was little chemistry with linemates to do any real damage. That will evolve when he actually gets some meaningful practice time in with his new mates, but the fact he was moved up to the top line by midway through the game (replacing **Alexei Ponikarovsky**), is a good omen.

When Burke does arrive, it is expected he will put his stamp on the club. But with nothing but the future to put hope in, here's hoping the new GM does as much as he can to hoard draft picks — and high ones, at that.

The Leafs will almost certainly be sellers at the trade deadline, a role they have not performed well

in recently. Facing another year out of the playoffs last season, the team decided only to shed marginal contributors **Chad Kilger** and **Wade Belak**, plus defenceman **Hal Gill**. Returns for such players are nice, but not what could be netted with tastier bait. Toronto would not or could not play hardball with the Muskoka Five, those players with no-trade clauses and therefore lost **Mats Sundin** for nothing.

Yes, the Burke Regime will be intriguing. If he maintains his pedigree, there will be no sacred cows on the Buds' roster and there will be feather-ruffling come spring. Can you imagine a Leafs blue-line not anchored by

**Tomas Kaberle**? What about a forward corps absent the twin towers of Antropov and Ponikarovsky?

Based on early play, **Curtis Joseph** will not return as backup goaltender next season and Marlies prospect Justin Pogge has done nothing to prove he is the heir apparent to **Vesa Toskala**.

Toskala himself has been no **Johnny Bower** himself, lately. So once again the question becomes, how far does the model get blown up as this season goes on? The answer, of course, is stay tuned.

**The Hockey News**  
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**Dal loses barnburner**

The Dalhousie Tigers lost 11-7 to the St. Thomas Tommies in Atlantic University Sport men's hockey action last night in Fredericton. Halifax native Corey Banfield paced the Tommies with two goals and an assist. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

## Huskies hoopsters fall to X

**AUS** The Saint Mary's Huskies came up short against the St. Francis Xavier X-Men last night, losing 76-71 in Atlantic University Sport basketball action in Antigonish.

Halifax's Christian Upshaw, a third-year X-Men guard, posted a team-high 20 points. Fifth-year guard Tyler Richards, also of Halifax, chipped in with 13 points.

Ikeobi Uchegbu had a huge game for the Huskies, draining 30 points and adding 10 rebounds. Jack Gallinaugh, with 15 points, and Mark McLaughlin, with 14, also helped out.

The Huskies are 3-2, tied for third in the AUS standings, while the nationally-third-ranked X-Men remain undefeated at 5-0.

In women's play, the Huskies lost 69-62. Kelsey Daley had 19 points and Angela Field added 14 for Saint Mary's, which dropped to 1-4, sixth of eight teams in the AUS.

**METRO NEWS SERVICES**

## Digging his way to China

Strople finds his ticket to the 2010 Olympics with the Chinese women's national team

**MATTHEW WUEST**  
matthew.wuest@metronews.ca

**Paul Strople's friends told him he was crazy. Moving to China to coach the country's national women's hockey team?**

"They'd say, 'What are you going there for? You have everything here,'" the 41-year-old Halifax native recalls.

Strople had a wife, children and a job coaching bantam AAA hockey in Nova Scotia when Chinese hockey officials came calling last summer, but he couldn't turn them down.

He had already spent the 2004-05 season behind the national-team bench, but wanted to go back for a second tour of duty to lead China to the 2010 Vancouver Olympics.

"It was something that had been on my mind for four years," says Strople, who fell short in his bid for the Turin Games in 2006. "I wanted the challenge to prove to myself I could get to the Olympics. That was my biggest drive."

Strople got there — and



Halifax coach Paul Strople's China squad qualified for the Vancouver Games earlier this month.

his friends finally understand.

"Now, when they send me an e-mail or call ... They're saying, 'Hey, if you need a water boy, a stick boy, or an assistant, I can take time off for the Olympics,'" Strople laughs.

China punched its ticket to Vancouver earlier this month at the final qualifying tournament in Shanghai. Strople calls it the "biggest moment" of his coaching career, an odyssey that began in 1996

and includes stops in the Netherlands, Germany and Iceland, as well as with the Antigonish Bulldogs.

With Strople's wife and children often living in the Halifax area, family sacrifices have been the biggest hurdle.

"When you go four months without seeing your family, it's a long haul," Strople said. "But my wife's been very supportive of my career. We've managed to get through it, keeping communication

lines open on the phone and Internet."

The language barrier was another major obstacle, but Strople has noticed a big difference in his second tour of duty. Although he has a full-time interpreter, he barely needs one anymore. That's because a handful of the team's star players have spent time playing professionally in Canada in recent years — helping not only their on-ice skills but also their English.

"They understand me better than they understand the interpretation. Now, they're telling the interpreter, 'You don't need to translate for us.' We already understand."

Strople loves coaching and would relish an opportunity to get a job behind the bench at the university level closer to home. His accomplishments in China — and an appearance at the Olympics — likely won't hurt his cause.

"It could open a lot of doors," he says. "It's a great achievement for me and it will be a very big point on my resume."

## Bloomfield leaves football X-Men

**AUS** The St. Francis Xavier X-Men parted ways with football head coach John Bloomfield yesterday.

Bloomfield has been at the helm for the past five seasons, posting a regular-season record of 17-22. He led the X-Men to the Loney Bowl in each of the past two seasons, losing in heartbreaking fashion to the Saint Mary's Huskies by two points earlier this month and by one point in 2007. The search for a new head coach begins immediately, St. F.X.'s director of athletics Leo MacPherson said.

## Rainmen release pre-season sked

**PBL** The Halifax Rainmen announced a four-game Premier Basketball League pre-season schedule yesterday. The Rainmen open the pre-season on Friday, Dec. 26, at 2 p.m. against the Augusta Groove. They face the Chicago Throwbacks on Dec. 27 at 7 p.m., the Groove again on Dec. 28 at 2 p.m., and the Throwbacks again on Dec. 29 at 7 p.m. All games will be played at The Tower. Tickets are \$5.

**METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Mary Anne Arsenault's rink is included in the Slam event.

## Rinks ready for Slam

**MATTHEW WUEST**  
matthew.wuest@metronews.ca

**CURLING** Three Nova Scotia rinks will hit the ice today when the final Grand Slam of Curling event opens in New Glasgow.

Halifax-area rinks skipped by Jill Mouzar, Mary Anne Arsenault and Nancy McConnery are featured in the star-studded 32-team field at the \$60,000 Sobey's Slam.

Mouzar, third Heather Smith-Dacey, second Kristen MacDiarmid, lead Teri Lake and fifth Blisse Comstock, face Alberta's Heather Rankin in the opening draw at 8:30 a.m.

McConnery has her hands full with reigning Canadian and world champion Jennifer Jones, while Arsenault, the reigning provincial champion, faces Alberta's Cathy King.

Two-time world champion Colleen Jones of Mayflower will also compete at the triple-knockout Slam, filling in as skip for Kelly Scott's British Columbia rink.

Jones is not skipping her own team this year, but serves as Scott's fifth.

The quarterfinals, semifinals and championship are scheduled for Sunday at 8 and 11:30 a.m. and 3 p.m.



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# Metro Homes



## Good value

We've been pleasantly surprised by O at Home, a magazine that delivers plenty of inspiration while being realistic about most folks' decor budgets; see [oprah.com/magazine/oathome](http://oprah.com/magazine/oathome).

METRO NEWS SERVICES

## When renovations make over your marriage

Home improvement can be tough on relationships

Are you and your partner undergoing a home renovation? How wonderful! But before I shake your hand I need to wish you good luck as a couple, because you'll need it.

The old chestnut that home renovation is responsible for ruining many a marriage has a hard kernel of truth, I'm afraid. To keep your marriage intact during a renovation, you'll

### HomeScape

Sylvia Putz



need to discuss, negotiate disagreements and reach a decision with civility.

You'll also need to communicate clearly but tactfully that you prefer the olive green rather than

that sage that your partner just loves. And you will, from time to time, have to — oh, how I hate the word — compromise.

And did I just refer to "a" decision? Ha! There are thousands of decisions to be made every day. They'll haunt you in your sleep. And then you'll wake up at the crack of dawn to a whistling contractor banging on your bedroom door.

Did I mention privacy? Well, you can toss aside

that quaint notion for now. The contractor banging on the bedroom door? Soon he'll be walking into your room and opening your curtains for you. My advice is to get decent robes for you and your family. You'll be using them.

And there's one more thing. As soon as you break walls or put up new ones, you'll be living in a winter wonderland of drywall dust. You'll be breathing in drywall dust, and every single thing you own will be saturated with drywall dust. And cleaning the dust will only make you feel better for a little while, because it settles happily back into place after a few hours. My blood pressure is going up just thinking about it.

I know there are some hardy souls who manage to stay cool and cordial and avoid stress during a renovation — my hat's off to them. But I think they're in the minority. The truth is that renovations disrupt your tidy little domestic life like nothing else. If you and your hubby have small niggling arguments about where to store the cutting boards, renovations have a way of increasing exponentially the number of things about which you can argue.

Furthermore, things that should be mildly irritating end up becoming major irritants. Before long, you're having the same pointless arguments and now they're getting personal.

If you recognize yourself here, take heart. Even the



During home renovations, it takes work to keep your relationship with your partner on an even keel.

### Keeping the peace

Here are a few hints from Toronto couples therapist Karen Hirschheimer, *couple therapy.ca*, to make renos easier on your relationship:

#### Plan ahead

- Talk about what's important to each of you and why. Who will be responsible for what and when?

#### Have patience

- Be extra patient with each other and those doing the work. Having your home disrupted with people traipsing in and out can be very taxing.
- Keep kids involved, so they don't feel like victims of the

annihilation of their normal orderly existence.

#### Show some respect

- Many partners have a different sense of style. Your home should represent both partners so it's important to make room for both tastes.

#### Take time out

- Spend quality time together doing fun things.

#### Forget the extras

- Put off doing things that aren't essential, i.e. refrain from taking on extra projects at work. Renovations and all the decision-making associated with them can be exhausting.

most loving couple can appear to eat each other alive after a few months of reno hell.

The good thing is that renos and the marriage-stressing conditions associated with renos do eventu-

ally end. And then you'll suddenly, miraculously be able to laugh at each other's jokes again.

Sylvia Putz is a journalist with an interest in home decor and design. She has written extensively for the TV show *Arresting Design*.

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Joanne Creighton,  
SALES MANAGER





Thursday, November 27, 2008

metronews.ca

metro

## A pocket-sized chef

A new software title for Nintendo DS™ turns the world's best-selling portable video game system into an interactive cooking coach, complete with tasty recipes and video demos. Personal Trainer™: Cooking for Nintendo DS contains more than 240 dishes from dozens of countries. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

lifestyle **17**

# Food

**Passeddown.com, a food website dedicated to preserving food memories and family favourite recipes, encourages users to submit their own recipe and story.**

Metro News Services



EDITOR: NINA DRAGICEVIC, NINA.DRAGICEVIC@METRONEWS.CA

# A real potluck pleaser

## À la carte

**Barb Holland**

Metro Food Writer



It seems every open house or potluck party I've attended or hosted has a variation of meatballs in sauce. And despite the fact that they are rather inelegant and drippy, they're familiar comfort food and always popular. Here's one I created a few

years ago and serve or take it often. If you have a slow cooker, use it to keep them warm. They freeze well, so make a batch and stash in the freezer till needed.

## Cranberry Chipotle Glazed Meatballs

Chipotles are dried smoked jalapeno peppers in a spicy tomato vinegar sauce (adobo sauce). They are quite spicy and add a wonderful rich, smoky flavour. Purée the

entire can, including sauce, until smooth. You won't need the entire can, so freeze the remaining in a resealable bag or freezer container for another use, such as chili, pulled pork or to kick up mayonnaise for a dip. Makes about 36 meatballs (recipe can be doubled).

**Despite the fact that (meatballs) are rather inelegant and drippy, they're familiar comfort food and always popular.**

# When life gives you lemons ...

The Complete Canadian Living Baking Book, the newest offering from the trusted Canadian Living Test Kitchen and Elizabeth Baird, is the gold-standard, go-to book that Canadian bakers can depend on.

Filled with mouth-watering recipes and instructive step-by-step photographs of baking techniques, the book is written specifically for the home baker. From cookies to cakes to pies to spoon desserts, there's something for every skill level and palate. Canadian Living offered Metro a recipe for these unbeatable treats:

## Lemon Cheesecake Bars

A middle cream cheese layer makes these a change — for the better — from the usual lemon squares.

### INGREDIENTS:

- 4 eggs
- 1 1/4 cups (300 mL) granulated sugar
- 2 tbsp (25 mL) finely grated lemon rind
- 1/2 cup (125 mL) lemon juice
- 1/4 cup (50 mL) all-purpose flour
- 1 tsp (5 mL) baking powder



Remember to let bars cool completely before cutting for neat, clean squares.

- 1 tbsp (15 mL) icing sugar
- Cheesecake layer:**
- 1 pkg (8 oz/250 g) cream cheese, softened
- 1/4 cup (50 mL) granulated sugar
- 1 egg
- Base:**
- 30 lemon social tea cookies
- 1/2 cup (125 mL) butter, melted

### METHOD:

Line 13- x 9-inch (3.5 L) metal cake pan with parchment paper or grease; set aside.

**BASE:** In food processor, whirl cookies to make 2 cups (500 mL) crumbs; pulse in butter until moistened. Press into prepared pan. Bake in centre of 325 F (160 C) oven until firm, about 12 minutes. Let cool in pan on rack.

**CHEESECAKE LAYER:** In bowl, beat cream cheese with sugar until smooth; beat in egg. Spread over base; set aside.

In bowl, beat eggs with sugar until thick-

## On the web

### Need more?

• You've got lemons, now try orange: Orange Sour Cream Bundt Cake, another fabulous recipe from The Complete Canadian Living Baking Book, is available at metronews.ca.



ened. Beat in lemon rind and juice, flour and baking powder until smooth; pour over cheesecake layer. Bake in centre of 325 F (160 C) oven until edges are set and lightly browned, about 35 minutes. Let cool in pan on rack. (Make ahead: Remove from pan; wrap and refrigerate for up to 5 days or overwrap in heavy-duty foil and freeze for up to 1 month.) Cut into bars; dust with icing sugar.

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### INGREDIENTS:

- 1-1/2 lbs (750 g) lean ground chicken or turkey
- 1 tbsp (15 mL) prepared horseradish
- 2 tsp (10 mL) ground cumin
- 1/2 tsp (2 mL) salt
- 1/4 tsp (1 mL) pepper
- Sauce:**
- 398 mL can jellied (smooth not whole berry) cranberry sauce
- 215 g can chipotles with adobo sauce
- 1 tbsp (15 mL) horseradish or more to taste
- Salt and pepper

### METHOD:

Preheat oven to 350°F (180°C). Place wire rack(s) over a large shallow rimmed pan. Lightly combine ground chicken or turkey, horseradish, cumin, salt and pepper and roll into small balls (about 1-inch/2.5 cm). Place

balls on rack. Bake until cooked through, about 15 minutes.

Meanwhile, place cranberry sauce in a 4-cup (1 L) glass measure or small saucepan. Microwave or cook over low heat until sauce has melted. Purée the entire can of chipotles and adobo sauce. Add 2 tsp (30 mL) purée to cranberry sauce, along with horseradish and salt and pepper to taste. Bring to a gentle boil, reduce heat and simmer a few minutes. Taste and adjust heat level (chipotles) or seasoning.

Combine meatballs and sauce. If serving soon, bring mixture to a simmer, transfer to a slow cooker, chafing dish or warm serving dish. If making ahead, cool then refrigerate or freeze. Reheat when ready to serve.

Barb Holland is a professional home economist and food writer who believes in shopping locally and in season.



You can alternately serve these meatballs as a simple supper over mashed potatoes.





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Support World AIDS Day through makeup purchases  
Beautify yourself while helping a good cause by visiting your local MAC Cosmetics store. This World AIDS Day (Dec. 1), MAC is selling Viva Glam collections and Kids Helping Kids Greeting Cards to benefit HIV/AIDS organizations around the world. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

# Style

## H&M partners with Williamson

It'll be a colour-drenched summer. Renowned British designer Matthew Williamson, known for his colourful collections, will be H&M's next guest designer. His first collection will be an exclusive women's fashion range, which will hit select stores on April 23. To follow will be men's and women's summer pieces available at H&M stores worldwide in mid-May. Last year Williamson was honoured with an exhibition at the Design Museum in London called "Matthew Williamson – 10 Years in Fashion."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: ANN-MARIE COLACINO, ANN-MARIE.COLACINO@METRONEWS.CA

# Hit the slopes in neon designs



### Neon Bright

Designer: Core Powder Room  
Shop: Coast Mountain Sports  
Address: Various Locations  
[coastmountain.com](http://coastmountain.com)

### Sketches

Designer: Core Powder Room  
Shop: Sport Mart  
Address: Various Locations  
[sportmart.ca](http://sportmart.ca)

### Full Design

Designer: Peak Performance  
Shop: Peak Performance  
[peakperformance.com](http://peakperformance.com)

## Winter jackets

Show your style on the mountain with full designs and patterns on your jackets. This season it's all about freestyle sketch designs in bright neon colours. Regardless of where you're hitting the slopes, there are three types of jackets you should be aware of. First, the shell jacket is best used in milder winter conditions. The regular insulated jacket and the three-in-one jacket that combines the two jackets with removable zips is most popular in climates that experience a lot of versatility.



### Drawstring

Designer: Da Kine  
Shop: Sport Mart  
Address: Various Locations  
[sportmart.ca](http://sportmart.ca)

### Detailed

Designer: Powder Room  
Shop: West49  
Address: Various Locations  
[west49.com](http://west49.com)

## Style File

Kim Elbo



[kim.elbo@metronews.ca](mailto:kim.elbo@metronews.ca)

## ask kim

I am looking to buy skis, but don't know where to start?

Nordica suggests that you first ask yourself and let the retailer know about your actual skiing habits, such as how many times a year you hit the slopes and what type of terrain you prefer. Then think about your budget and be realistic with it. It's always good to spend a little more for quality. And remember, it's important to know your height and weight as it determines the length of your skis.

E-mail your style questions to [kim.elbo@metronews.ca](mailto:kim.elbo@metronews.ca).

Vancouver's Kim Elbo has a passion for fashion. Here she shares the latest style tips.

## Are you wearing the right size?

Chantelle  
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## Silken Lingerie

Park Lane Mall - Halifax • Sunnyside Mall - Bedford  
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### Pearlized

Designer: Peak Performance  
Shop: Peak Performance  
[peakperformance.com](http://peakperformance.com)

### tip:

Buy gloves or mittens with removable inner inserts. These are best for drying your gloves quickly and efficiently.

## Mittens

I've been shopping around for gloves and I've noticed that the best gloves to buy for any winter sport are mittens. Mittens trap the heat in from your entire hand, whereas gloves individually trap the heat in for each finger, making the insulation thicker and unbearable for fingers to move in. If you do like the freedom of loose digits, try looking around for a turtle hand. It's just as you would imagine it, a mitten with a separate section for your index finger which makes things easier for you to grab and unzip things.

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## accessory

Not a board or ski bunny? Take a seat on the side with these DC snow boots, \$120. Available at West49 ([west49.com](http://west49.com)).



## GlobalStyle

Kenya Hunt



New York designers Rodarte are hitting the international big leagues, exclusively at [metronews.ca/globalstyle](http://metronews.ca/globalstyle)



KALLT gift bag set, \$1.99 for a set of three. Also comes in blue and white. Available at Ikea. [ikea.ca](http://ikea.ca). **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

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SPECIAL FEATURES EDITOR: STEPHANIE BOMBA. STEPHANIE.BOMBA@METRONEWS.CA

# Shop until you drop



Looking for the perfect gift? Read on for fabulous gift ideas and the ins and outs of online shopping.

## Pg 23



## What to give the tech-savvy music lover on your list.

## Pg 26



The first of Metro's roundup  
of this holiday's jolliest jingles.

## Pg 28



From makeup to jewelry,  
these gifts are sure to please.


For  
remem

a memorial in Chinguacousy Park

hundreds of dignitaries, military per-

gathered before the Ontario Veterans' Memorial outside the provin-

Canadians have a "duty" to support the families of those killed and women who are Afghanis, says McGuinty.



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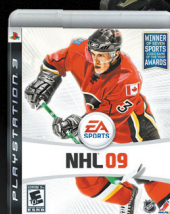
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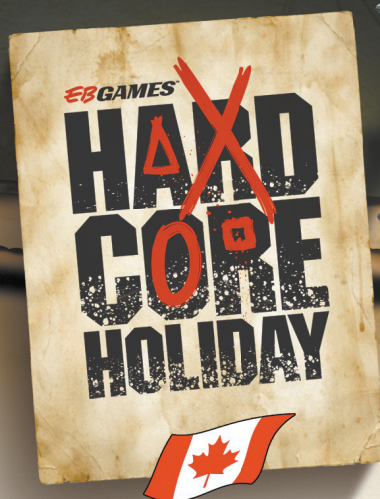
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**The special touch**

Wrap your holiday gifts with gift wrap from the Mouth and Foot Painting Artists of Canada. The MFPA is owned and controlled by disabled artists who have lost the use of their hands. Wrapping set: \$14.95 for 10 sheets in five designs with matching gift tags, [mfpacanada.com](http://mfpacanada.com). **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

**Holiday Shopping Guide II**

# Must-have gifts for music lovers

**RICK MCGINNIS**  
rick.mcginis@metronews.ca

**XMp3 Satellite Radio (\$279; XM subscription \$14.99/month)**

**Sirius Stiletto 2 (\$299.99; Sirius subscription \$14.99/month)**

**Tivoli NetWorks Internet radio (\$649.99)**

Top 40 playlists, rigid oldies formats and endless talk have made conventional radio a dreary experience, but satellite and internet radio offer relief — with a few conditions. With internet radio, you need an Ethernet or wifi connection, and with satellite you need a clear “sight-line” of the two competing satellite networks that, in Canada at least, haven’t merged together into one yet.

Previous generations of portable satellite players turned into bricks the moment you entered a tunnel or subway or fell into a satellite gray area, so both Sirius and XM have updated their iPod-like units with microSD memory slots that allow you to turn their radios into conventional mp3 players. Commuting to work with both machines on Toronto’s surface transit had XM’s network holding connections just a bit better



Sirius Stiletto 2, and the XMp3 Satellite Radio, below left.

than the Sirius Stiletto 2, and the Sirius Altec Lansing combination headphone/antenna was a bit too close-fitting, pinching the arms of my glasses painfully against my temples. A slightly lower price tag, in addition to a more compact design, gave the XMp3 a decided edge.

Tivoli is famous for their small but luxurious PAL radio, and the NetWork takes the PAL’s good looks and great sound and builds an internet radio into it. Configuration on my home wifi network was quick, and the choice of stations generous. The interface is a bit retro — think first generation mono-chrome iPod screen — but the sound was spectacular, especially for digitally-compressed streaming, and that would be most of what you would be paying (dearly) for.

**Sansa Clip 4GB (\$89.99)**

**Sansa Fuze 4GB (\$99.99)**

For iPod and Zune refuseniks, there’s still a wealth of very nice mp3 players out there, and Sandisk has been quietly holding their corner of the flash memory player market for years. The Clip is meant to compete with the iPod Shuffle, and

while this little gray unit might not be as minimal as Apple’s lite player, it has a lot that the Shuffle doesn’t, including a tidy little screen, an FM radio, an EQ, the ability to play more than just a single random playlist, and twice the memory of the 2GB Shuffle — at almost the same price. The plastic clip at the back seems a bit flimsier than the Shuffle’s, but

**Sansa Fuze.**



it held on just as well during a gym workout.

The Fuze competes with Apple’s Nano, at a very competitive price (the 8GB Fuze is \$40 cheaper than the same sized Nano), with the addition of FM radio, and a microSD slot that lets you expand the memory even further. (Sandisk’s microSD-HC cards run \$29.99 for 4GB, \$49.99 for 8GB.) The build quality is impressive — it’s a sleek little machine, all black gloss and rubber, with an easy-to-navigate menu, and both players offer simple syncing through Windows Media Player.

blocking out the din, but effectiveness comes at a price.

**Sony MDRNC500D headphones.**



Sony’s NWZ-S736F music player system comes married to a pair of noise-cancelling earbuds, and it does a fine enough job competing with the sounds of traffic and airplane engines. Like the standalone DJ-style MDRNC6 earphones, background sound was cut down to a level where music could compete with it on a level playing field — diminishing, but not cancelling.

Sony’s MDRNC500D are the sorts of high-end units you see frequent fliers pull out of special carrying cases in first-class sections of planes, sleek and well-made, with a range of accessories including a battery pack to augment the rechargeable battery on long flights. They promise 99 per cent noise-cancellation, and do a pretty good job delivering, with excellent audio quality to boot, but at a hefty price tag.

Sony’s MDRNC500D are the sorts of high-end units you see frequent fliers pull out of special carrying cases in first-class sections of planes, sleek and well-made, with a range of accessories including a battery pack to augment the rechargeable battery on long flights. They promise 99 per cent noise-cancellation, and do a pretty good job delivering, with excellent audio quality to boot, but at a hefty price tag.

**Sony NWZ-S736F music player with noise-cancelling earbuds, left, and Sony MDRNC6 headphones.**



**“Booyah!”**



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**Sony MDRNC500D noise-cancelling headphones (\$449.99)**

**Sony MDRNC6 noise-cancelling headphones (\$79.99)**

**Sony NWZ-S736F 4GB music player with noise-cancelling headphones (\$149.99)**

One of the reasons why mp3 players can make you deaf is the volume necessary to drown out background noise during daily commutes.

Noise-cancelling headphones let you listen at reasonable volume while



The gift of a goat can change lives for villagers in the Sahara.

## Give gifts that help others

**You may be home for the holidays but, for many Canadians, 'tis the season to think far beyond their own hearth — and borders.**

“We are just consistently amazed at Canadians’ compassion. That’s really a trait of Canadians, our ability to think beyond ourselves,” says World Vision director of public relations Karen Homer.

This is the eighth year the Christian relief agency’s seasonal catalogue (view it at [worldvision.ca](http://worldvision.ca)) is helping Canadians contribute gifts considered invaluable in the developing world, either on their own or on behalf of someone else.

The top-selling item in last year’s catalogue was

**“We are just consistently amazed at Canadians’ compassion. That’s really a trait of Canadians, our ability to think beyond ourselves.”**  
Karen Homer

two hens and a rooster (\$55), and among this year’s offerings are water filters (\$75), an HIV and AIDS care kit (\$60), and a backpack filled with school supplies for a child (\$25). You can also keep your gift closer to home by giving \$30 to feed a Canadian family.

“I’ve had the benefit of being in remote villages in

the middle of the Sahara, seeing the difference a goat can make. For people living on \$1 a day, that’s just an outstanding gift, the equivalent of an Xbox for the kids of the village,” says Homer.

UNICEF cards and merchandise, sold online at [unicef.ca](http://unicef.ca) or at retailers such as Ikea, Rona, Pier 1 and the Bay, also help children in developing countries.

“By supporting UNICEF, you’re making those purchases you’re going to make anyway. At the same time, you’re helping children around the world, which is really the spirit of the holidays,” says Jerry Seligman, director of sales and marketing.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

### More ideas

**PLAN CANADA** The charity’s Gifts of Hope catalogue is filled with unique gifts that support sustainable development projects: \$25 buys a beekeeping microfinance project in Egypt; \$55 buys three hens and one rooster for a family in Mozambique. **CANADAHHELPS** Buy electronic Charity Gift Card at [canadahelps.org](http://canadahelps.org) and recipients can donate to any of Canada’s 83,000 charities.

### Next week’s lineup

**GIFT GUIDES** For a roundup of what Canadian celebrities are buying this year, gifts for him and her, and much more, pick up Metro’s next Holiday Shopping Guide on Dec. 4.

**28** shopping days remain before Christmas.



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**Hot gift**  
These beautiful Whatever Mugs make a great gift. Available for \$19.99 at Home Outfitters, [homeoutfitters.com](http://homeoutfitters.com). **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

## Holiday Shopping Guide II

# Online shopping up

BRIAN TOWIE  
[brian.towie@metronews.ca](mailto:brian.towie@metronews.ca)

**Crowded stores, frustrated shoppers, inexperienced and temporary holiday help at the store — it might all add up to make online Christmas shopping more attractive.**

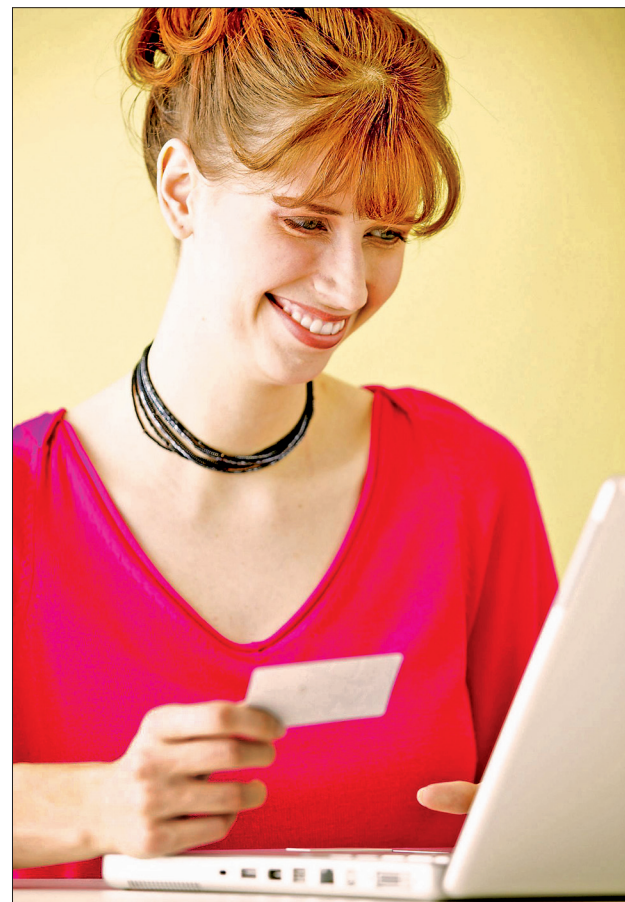
More customers are opting to complete their shopping lists with the click of a button, buying their Christmas presents at online retailers, and the number of online shoppers around the world is expected to rise this year. IMRG, an online membership community for e-retailers, released a survey in late October that concluded the Internet is becoming an increasingly important tool for driving consumer choice.

Of the two million people surveyed, 68 per cent said they're more likely to shop online for Christmas this year, compared with 56 per cent in 2007. And 86 per cent of shoppers said they would research all options online before buying in-store.

It's also a growing trend in Canada, says Andrea Hadley, a conference director at eMetrics, an online retailer analyst. Increased broadband access, coupled with more American interest, has moved more retailers to follow the market.

"There's consistent growth in Canada, and so long as the customer has a good experience as a user, you'll continue to see it," she said.

It's not hard to see why, says Bernard Luthi, vice-president of merchandising at online retailer



Find gifts for everyone on your list from the comfort of home.

Newegg.ca. He argues customers are tired of dealing with throngs of angry shoppers during the Christmas rush. Infrastructure costs such as employee wages and maintenance factor into the price tag at the store — something Luthi says online retailers and customers don't have to worry about.

"We're predicting growth in the double digits this year because people are becoming more cost-conscious," he said. "You're also spending time and gas money to get to these retail establishments. Online, you

have more time to (do) in-depth research on the product that you want to buy."

While security remains an issue, Hadley says it has improved, along with perceptions, over the past three years.

If you are going to buy online, don't leave your shopping to the last minute, Luthi says, adding you can expect to wait at least 3-5 days before you get your package from your online retailer. "We always advise, especially in the Christmas season, to give yourself adequate time," he said.



## Holiday shipping dos and don'ts

When packages arrive at your loved ones' doorsteps this holiday season, ensure they arrive on time and ready to delight. Shipping experts encourage consumers and businesses to think ahead when it comes to shipping this holiday season. Consider the following dos and don'ts when preparing gifts:

### Don't

- Use masking tape, duct tape or electrical tape to seal boxes. These kinds of materials, along with other

opaque tapes, may lack strength to hold the box together and can obscure addresses.

- Tie your package together with string, rope or elastic bands. These items can potentially get caught in processing equipment or torn off, damaging the parcel itself.

- Use real holiday wrapping paper to ship a gift, as it is likely to get torn up throughout the delivery cycle. Use strong, durable shipping paper instead.

- Allow any parts of your gift to protrude from the box, as it may get caught in processing equipment.
- Forget to include clearly visible shipping and receive

ing addresses, complete with postal codes.

### Do

- Whenever possible, use a new box to ship your gift as previously-used boxes lose their strength over time.
- Use cardboard inserts to protect the edges of books and picture frames and pack against one corner of the box as opposed to the middle.

- Cover hollow items like toy buckets with large bubble wrap on the outside and inside.

- Use plenty of packing chips to fill in empty spaces in parcels that contain lightweight gifts.



**Stocking stuffer**

Relive your favourite moments from The Muppet Show with this Statler and Waldorf ornament — they talk! Available for \$22.98 at Hallmark, [hallmark.ca](http://hallmark.ca). **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

**Holiday Shopping Guide II**

# Zune gives iPod run for its money



The Apple iPod Touch, left, and Microsoft's 80G Zune music player.

**RICK MCGINNIS**  
rick.mcginis@metronews.ca

**Once a one-word punch line on online geek forums, Microsoft's Zune has been getting more respect in the last year, as second- and third-generation players and a major software update has changed its status from joke to contender.**

The iPod's ubiquity might have reached a tipping point and begun diminishing its cool factor, but a comparison between the two players has become something like a fair fight.

There are a lot of digital music players, but the Zune and the iPod are the Beatles and Rolling Stones, as Mi-

crosoft's entry into the market two years ago quickly zoomed past more established players like Creative, iRiver and Sansa to second place, albeit far behind iPod's massive market share (73 per cent, according to Apple as of last year.)

In terms of usability, Zune stole the march on the iPod with the last major revision of Apple's operating system, when the famously elegant interface gave way to a graphics-heavy split screen that felt kludgy, especially when Coverflow was engaged. Zune's interface, controlled by a signature "squircle" pad with its mix of click and touch sensitivity, feels more responsive, and the larger screen on the Zune gives the player's interface readability.

With its choice of customizable wallpapers and the Zune Originals — artist-decorated players available at no extra cost — Microsoft has reversed the brand myths that have made Apple the epitome of creative

rebellion versus Microsoft's faceless behemoth, but the iPod was going to have a hard time maintaining that image once it reached market saturation anyway.

The Zune adds features — FM radio, wifi — that Apple has curiously neglected, while eschewing an EQ that would be a minus if the player didn't have basically excellent sound. Apple, in the meantime, has shown a commitment to its standard issue sub-par earbuds that's almost perverse. And since Apple axed its 160 GB iPod from the Classic line, the two players compete neatly on memory capacity, with the Zune's frequent price drops on its smaller flash players (4, 8 and 16 GB players for \$99, \$139 and \$179 respectively) making it the better deal.

The Zune's software has also improved, moving from a reskinned Windows Media Player to an integrated suite combining music database and syncing interface, download shop and the Social — the Facebook lite users' community that

it obviously intends as a killer app against Apple. It might be that one day, once there are enough Zune owners out there, but so far my community of Zune friends is limited to two nice Microsoft publicists, and as there's no Canadian version of the Marketplace, the Zune will really only be competing with small-fry.

Apple's iTunes remains superior however, as an organizing tool for large music libraries, though bugs (disappearing tunes, album artwork, and even whole libraries) have developed a Windows-like frequency as the program has grown in size and demands on computer CPUs. Apple's iPod Touch, an entirely new piece of hardware and software, also points the way to a future that the Zune will be forced to follow. And for anyone whose music library exceeds the capacity of the largest music players (120GB, for both iPod and Zune), the playing field belongs to iTunes, with its Airport wireless networking capability. It's not hard to imagine a

day when Apple, the computer maker, leaves the music player field to Microsoft,

the software giant, to concentrate on iTunes as a digital entertainment system.

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## Holiday Shopping Guide II

# Honky-tonk, headbangers among jolliest jingles

BRIAN TOWIE  
brian.towie@metronews.ca



Christmas is the time for family, gift exchanges and musicians to rehash the traditional songs of the season in their particular style, for better or worse. So in the interest of saving you time and

sanity this Christmas, Metro perused some of the season's jolliest jingles.

### Various Artists

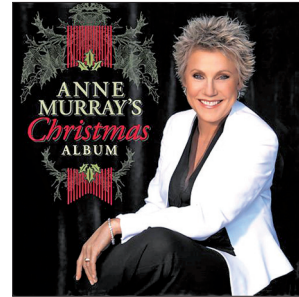
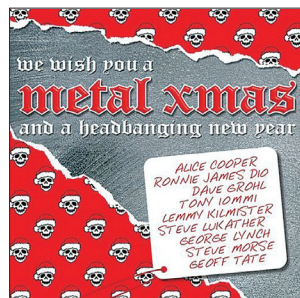
**Album:** We Wish You a Metal Xmas and a Headbanging New Year

**Label:** Armoury

**Rating:** ⓈⓈⓈⓈ

Gods of hard rock unite to shred and wail all your favourite seasonal standards in this raucous and wonderful collection of mirth-making metal mayhem. Jams of note include God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen as howled by Ronnie James Dio, and a take on Silent Night done in part by Testament's Chuck Billy

and Anthrax's Scott Ian — a version of the hymn that is anything but quiet. An absolute must for those who will celebrate Jesus' birth by pumping their devil horns in the air.



### Anne Murray

**Album:** Anne Murray's Christmas Album

**Label:** EMI

**Rating:** ⓈⓈⓈⓈ

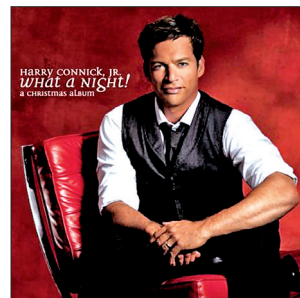
though she already has three seasonal works to her name.

And none of it deviates from her Celtic new-age modus operandi; drawn out "oohs" and "aahs" weave in with ebbing and flowing long chords while she jumps from English to Latin to Gaelic.

The stars twinkle, nights are full of kisses — you'll find all manner of such generic sentimental dross here. Tryptophan for the ear.

Anne Murray's seventh Christmas album is everything you might expect. The Canadian music icon knows her audience and sticks to what she does well. Sugary productions with a countrified twang lay out the traditional tracks.

CanCon contemporaries Michael Bublé and Diana Krall join Murray on her latest, increasing the likelihood that one of these covers may find its way onto a CBC Christmas special that your mom will watch with bells on.



### Harry Connick Jr.

**Album:** What A Night! A Christmas Album

**Label:** Columbia

**Rating:** ⓈⓈⓈⓈ½

You can tell Connick wasn't trying to bore the listener with a collection of the same-olds on his third Christmas album — though you'll find a few here.

Connick does skirt the line between fun and fromage (There's a track called Santarrific), but he does so bravely. He's at his best when he brings his N'awlins Yat style to the music; doing a convincing job on Charles Brown's blues lament Please Come Home For Christmas and opening up the album with It's The Most Wonderful Time Of The Year to a quasi-zydeco beat.



### Enya

**Album:** And Winter Came

**Label:** Warner Bros.

**Rating:** ⓈⓈⓈ½

Irish songstress Enya has chosen to make a Christmas album her first release in three years, even



### Various Artists

**Album:** Country Heat Christmas 3

**Label:** Sony/BMG

**Rating:** Ⓢ

Some of the genre's brightest stars unite, yet again, to shamelessly unleash a collection of horrifying slack-jawed treatments upon an undeserving public.

Offenders include ex-Idol Kellie Pickler, who takes the already tasteless Santa Baby to ostentatious new lows, and Canadian Paul Brandt, who regurgitates novelty song Convoy into a narrative-led disaster.

Other such acts play to the unfair hillbilly stereotype — adding the Hee Haw along with the heat on what will likely be this year's most abrasive Christmas album.

### Next Week

Pick up Metro on Dec. 4 for more musical gift ideas.

the **12** draws of Christmas

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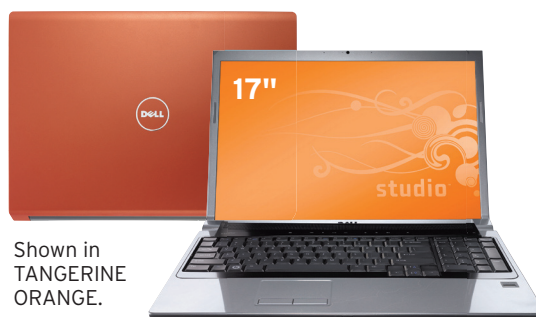
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This Gluckstein Hammered Bar Set makes a great host gift. Available for \$24.99-\$29.99 at Home Outfitters, [homeoutfitters.com](http://homeoutfitters.com). METRO NEWS SERVICES

## Holiday Shopping Guide II

# Hot gifts for her

KIM ELBO  
for Metro Canada

### Make it up to her (gifts under \$50)

The best bet is always makeup when you're not sure what to get your sister, girlfriend or wife. Here are some great holiday gift sets perfect for the budget-conscious:

**1** All the fine makeup essentials tucked away in a little treasure chest.

Quo secret treasure gift set, \$40, is available at Shoppers Drug Mart ([shoppersdrugmart.ca](http://shoppersdrugmart.ca)).

**2** Keep your lips plump and shiny for a New Year's kiss. Du Wop limited edition gift set, \$42, is available at Beauty Mark ([beautymark.ca](http://beautymark.ca)).

**3** Primp up at the parties with the gold clutch at hand. Clarins Chic n Glam holiday gift set, \$49, is available at Sears ([sears.com](http://sears.com)).

### Hostess with the mostess (gifts under \$75)

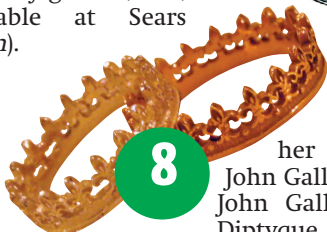
Don't show up empty-handed at the next party you're going to. Show your appreciation by giving the host a gift.



1

**4** For the fashionable hostess give her the essence of John Galliano in a candle. John Galliano candle by Diptyque, \$72, is available at Lola ([lolahomeandapparel.com](http://lolahomeandapparel.com)).

**5** The host that loves all things luxurious will love to pamper themselves in 23kt gold leaf body essentials. Linden Leaves Gold gift set, \$74, is available at The Bay ([hbc.com](http://hbc.com)).



8

**6** Liked the party? Give the host another reason to invite you over again. Palais de Thes glass mini tea set, \$75, is available at Farfalla ([shopfarfalla.ca](http://shopfarfalla.ca)).

### Sparkle and shine (\$100+ gifts)

For that special someone, leave her gleaming bright this holiday with jewelry.

**7** The perfect gift to commemorate the holidays: Juicy Couture charm and bracelet, \$120, is available at Hills ([hillsofkennerdale.com](http://hillsofkennerdale.com)).

**8** Ring in the New Year with this sweet Fleur-de-lis design ring. Corpus Christi ring, \$145, is available at Lola ([lolahomeandapparel.com](http://lolahomeandapparel.com)).

**9** Let her sparkle this season with this beautiful necklace you could wear with just about anything. Lolo necklace, \$175, is available at Beauty Mark ([beautymark.ca](http://beautymark.ca)).



7



2



9



4



3



6



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U2 has almost finished work on their 12th studio album. Although the followup to 2004's *How to Dismantle an Atomic Bomb* will not be released until 2009, Interscope label chairman Jimmy Iovine says the album is nearly complete. [ANANOVA.COM](http://ANANOVA.COM)

# Entertainment

EDITOR: TINA COSTANZA, [TINA.COSTANZA@METRONEWS.CA](mailto:TINA.COSTANZA@METRONEWS.CA)

## Digital mag gets U2 to pitch in

**MUSIC** Some of the biggest names in music are contributing exclusive songs to RED(WIRE), a digital music magazine that launches on World AIDS Day (Dec. 1).

U2, Coldplay, the Killers, the Dixie Chicks, John Legend, R.E.M. and Bob Dylan are on board for the initiative, which is an outgrowth of the Bono-reared activist organization called (RED). All proceeds from subscriptions will benefit HIV-infected people in Africa.

REUTERS

# Guns are finally loaded

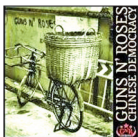
## Guns N' Roses

**Album:** Chinese Democracy

**Label:** Geffen/Universal

**Rating:** ●●●½

**THIS WOULD HAVE** been a landmark album if it had been released 15 years ago when Axl Rose began his Arthurian quest. It may have even saved hair metal from grunge (doubtful). Now, with its gunslinger



## MusicReviews

[music@metronews.ca](mailto:music@metronews.ca)

guitars and castrato vocals, Chinese Democracy seems like a shiny relic unearthed from hair-metal Camelot. Rose has finally given us his Sgt. Pepper of pop metal. At times it reaches power-ballad heaven. At others, it merely tastes like overdone Meatloaf. Maybe Axl left it in the oven a little too long.

Graham Rockingham/for Metro Canada

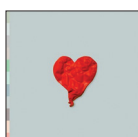
## Kanye West

**Album:** 808s & Heartbreak

**Label:** Roc-A-Fella/Universal

**Rating:** ●●●

**SINCE THE DEATH** of his mother and the dissolution of a long-term relationship, the usually brash Kanye has been more subdued musically. His followup to last year's *Graduation* is a somber affair with slow, mellow songs about heartbreak and loss. While it's not nearly as exciting as previous efforts, it's still intriguing to see this hip-hop superstar get in touch with his softer side. The biggest detraction isn't the few plodding tunes that could



have been cut, it's the overzealous use of autotune. If he'd used his own vocal skills this could have been a classic.

Bryan Borzykowski/for Metro Canada

## The Killers

**Album:** Day & Age

**Label:** Island Def Jam/Universal

**Rating:** ●●●●

**HOW CAN YOU** not like an album that asks the question: "Are we human or are we dancer?" Smoke a big one and you can spend hours mulling over its anti-grammatical philosophy. Killers frontman Brandon Flowers says the lyric to the sin-

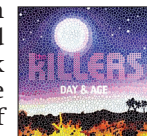
## Stan again

Eminem's sixth studio album will feature a track labelled as the followup to his 2000 hit single Stan. The album is due out in early 2009.

[ANANOVA.COM](http://ANANOVA.COM)



gle Human was inspired by a remark from the late king of gonzo Hunter S. Thompson. Thompson's madness was well-rooted in '60s drug-induced mayhem. The Killers are mired in '80s synth-pop, which is fine if all you want is to dance along with everyone else. This band is capable of more.



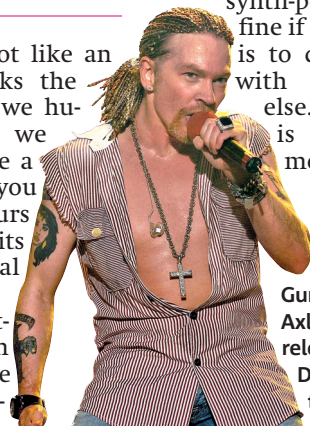
Graham

Rockingham

/for Metro

Canada

Guns N' Roses' Axl Rose finally released Chinese Democracy this week.



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— Carl Stoyloff

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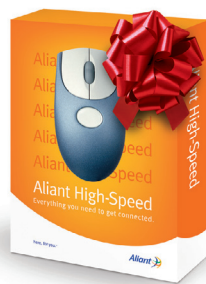
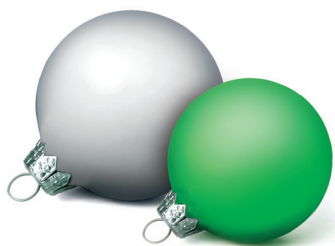
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Actor Hugh Jackman is reportedly set to star as Harry Houdini in a Broadway musical based on the life of the legendary illusionist. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

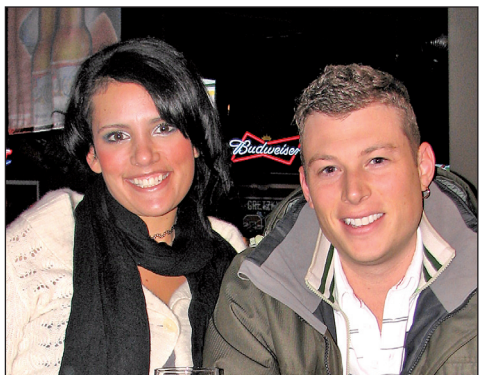


Above: Christina Fitzgerald, Universal Music's Kirk Lahey and Ruby Carr at the Chinese Democracy release at Bubbles Mansion.



Above: Scrooge (a.k.a. Alex Long) with Keri Walters at the 19th annual Victorian Christmas in the Halifax Citadel.

Right: Sharla Nielsen and Gary Barrette cheer the Stampeders to Grey Cup victory at Bubba Ray's.



Right: Nicole Pittman and Nicole Twohig arriving at Hooters' bikini contest.



## Calendars, Hooters and some Chinese Democracy

### HalifaxScene

Jamie Paterson



Funny how a little bit of snow can throw a wrench into an entire weekend! The first of the week started off well with the Easter Seals Gala Dinner and Auction at the World Trade and Convention Centre.

Not only was it a fundraiser for the Abilities Foundation, but also the first unveiling of two projects the Canadian Navy and Easter Seals are teaming up on.

Those in attendance got a first glimpse at the Everyday Heroes calendar for 2009.

Friday night, the masks were back on at the Lord Nelson Hotel for Fantasy Masquerade 2008.

The dinner and dance was in support of the Canadian Liver Foundation to learn more about the many faces of liver disease and unmask a silent killer.

The early dump of snow put a damper on my regular Friday routine of bar hopping, but by Saturday night I'd been plowed out enough to

head over to Hooters on Main Street in Dartmouth.

It was the restaurant's first time hosting a bikini contest and it was standing room only.

Miss Hooters Canada was there to oversee the evening where ten of the hottest women in town competed for an incredible prize ... a Florida photo shoot for the next Hooters calendar.

The winner was also entered into Miss Hooters International 2009. Glad I didn't have to judge and could just sit back and eat the wings!

By Sunday it was time to get into the spirit of the season with Victorian Christmas at Citadel Hill.

I've always had a soft spot in my heart for this event, having played the role of Father Christmas for a few years. The carols and Victorian crafts usually put me in the holiday mood.

If that doesn't do it, the Dickens reading and eggnog definitely push me over the edge.

Sunday was also the release of the long (long, long) awaited Guns N' Roses CD, Chinese Democracy.

A party was held at Bubbles Mansion for local fans to celebrate. There was a steady buzz during the afternoon with speculation that Axl Rose himself may make an appear-

ance.

Axl and Bubbles (otherwise known as Mike Smith) became good friends after Axl became a huge fan of the Trailer Park Boys.

It was not to be, but the new GNR music was enough to satisfy the fans, some of whom were barely out of Pull-Ups the last time Axl put out new music.

Interesting to note, the last time Guns N' Roses put out an album, no one had ever heard of Harry Potter, the World Trade Center Towers were still standing and Miley Cyrus wasn't even a smear of DNA.

The rest of the day was spent dropping into sports bars enjoying the grand finale of a Canadian football fan's dream weekend. Grey Cup Sunday is always a great party no matter where you are in this great country, or who is playing in the big game.

Your man on the scene is in the holiday spirit now. Don't forget to invite me to your holiday soiree. I'd love to swing by and perhaps take some photos for upcoming issues of The Scene.

You can always find me at [beatlejamie@east-link.ca](mailto:beatlejamie@east-link.ca).

When he's not making the Scene, Jamie Paterson hosts The Drive and The Beatlebrunch on KOOL FM in Halifax



Left: Teresa Pratt and Amy Pellerin at the Citadel's Victorian Christmas.



Right: Karissa May and Carly Anthony showing off their cookies at the annual Victorian Christmas.



Left: Patricia MacDonald and Pamela Choyce listen to Guns N' Roses' new album for the first time at Bubbles Mansion.



Above: (Buckethead) Dan Macintosh with Nikki Comeau at Bubbles Mansion's Guns N' Roses party.



Above: Lauren Coughtry with the Bounce's Cash Conners at Hooters' first annual Bikini Contest.



Leibovitz being sued

Celebrity photographer Annie Leibovitz has been targeted in a new lawsuit, after a celebrity stylist accused her of failing to pay almost \$400,000 US for her work on a photoshoot with Scarlett Johansson. [IMDB.COM](#)



# The weird power of reality TV

## IntelVision



### YOU'RE ON CANDID CAMERA:

The stories about deluded souls convinced their lives are the subjects of reality-TV cameras began not long after reality TV hit the airwaves, and the stories about the afflicted are cropping up at regular intervals in the news cycle.

An Associated Press story this week introduces us to three victims: A man who importuned staff at a federal building in the U.S. to get released from the reality show that had taken over his life, a second convinced that he was being filmed day and night for a TV contest, and a third who believe he was "part of a phony, stage-set world with him as the involuntary star," where even the drugs and therapy he was receiving were part of the illusion.

The last case is cited as a

perfect example of what has been dubbed "Truman syndrome," the sole lasting legacy that the Truman Show, a 1998 Jim Carrey movie, has bequeathed popular culture.

The movie was specifically mentioned by several of the patients studied by Dr. Joel Gold of Manhattan's Bellevue Hospital over a two-year period, which might suggest a further link with the "previously viewed" bins in DVD rental stores.

It's hard not to be both amused and fascinated by people who, at the very least, have developed an interesting twist on Rene Descartes' philosophical bumper sticker and T-shirt slogan "I think, therefore I am."

The Cartesian epigram is a cornerstone of modern philosophy, but it's more than 350 years old now, so it's no surprise that one branch has mutated into "I exist to be filmed," or some self-regarding variation thereof.

You can't help but be impressed with the weird power of television the first time you end up on it;



A number of people are convinced they are being filmed day and night, like Jim Carrey's character in *The Truman Show*.

friends and relatives who were patently unimpressed by my choice of profession could be counted on to respond enthusiastically when I ended up appearing on camera, either by accident (caught at the edge of a scrum of photographers) or on purpose (booked to provide verbiage as a talking head on some chat show.)

I'd go so far as to suggest that, for every unhappy soul complaining of being press-ganged into the

**It's hard not to be both amused and fascinated by people who, at the very least, have developed an interesting twist on Rene Descartes' philosophical bumper sticker and T-shirt slogan "I think, therefore I am."**

Bachelor or Biggest Loser of some as-yet-unaired pilot, there are probably many more happily going through life glorying in the illusion of being the Gene Simmons or Donald Trump of their social circle, pulling up the covers at night imagining that these last moments of their day are being captured in green and black night vision, their pupils as big and black as a zombie.

Rick McGinnis writes about music, movies, books and television, but not opera.

## Judge uses Manilow as punishment

**LEGAL** A U.S. judge has hailed as a success a new form of punishment for people who go to court for being too noisy — an hour of listening to Barry Manilow or the theme tune from the children's TV show Barney and Friends. Judge Paul Sacco said he decided to try something new after noticing that violators brought before his Colorado court for playing their stereos too loudly, or disturbing neighbours with band rehearsals, kept doing it again. The usual practice of fining offenders was not proving to be a deterrent.

REUTERS

## TMZ gets renewed for two seasons

**TELEVISION** Syndicated entertainment magazine show TMZ has been renewed for two more seasons on Fox Television Stations. The station group has cleared the half-hour Warner Bros. show through the 2010-11 season. The extension includes all of the owned-and-operated Fox affiliates. TMZ which debuted in September 2007.

REUTERS

See complete online movie listings, trailers, reviews and purchase tickets at [metronews.ca/movies](#)

## Nikki's Haliwood Headlines Nikki Balch

Check out the Urban Butter Showcase, one of the largest ski and snowboard events in North America this Saturday! Listen to Z103.5 or visit [z103halifax.com](#) for details!



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## critics' corner

### Snapshot

This new episode of the series spotlighting Canadian photographers turns the lens on Rob MacInnis and his Farm Family Project, in which he uses barnyard animals as models. As he puts it, his intent is "to draw parallels between the idealization of the human form in contemporary fashion photography and the subjugation of animals by humans." No, he's not putting sheep in designer gowns, but his images are worth a look. 9 PM on BRAVO



### The Nature of Things

You may not look at your little gray cells the same way again after watching the new episode "The Brain That Changes Itself." Author and researcher Dr. Norman Doidge, a psychiatrist, discusses the theory that the brain is not a hard-wired machine that dictates our feelings and impulses but a fluid system on which those very feelings and urges can have an effect. 8 PM on CBC

### Love in the Time of Cholera

Javier Bardem stars in director Mike Newell's version of the Gabriel Garcia Marquez novel. The actor plays a man whose heart is shattered by the woman he loves (Giovanna Mezzogiorno), particularly when she proceeds to marry a doctor (Benjamin Bratt). The distraught fellow then strives to re-create the same level of passion with countless women. 10 PM on M1

HA	H	D	B	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
11/27/08	31	31	31	ABC	News (N)	ABC Wild News	Inside Edition	Thanksg. Hero	A Charlie Brown Thanksgiving	(10:02) Grey's Anatomy (HDTV)		
	7	7	7	ASN	The Road to Avonlea		Instant Star	TMZ (N)	A Christmas Carol: The Musical ** (2004, Musical)			Eleventh Hour
	11	11	11	CBC	Coronation St.	Jeopardy! (N)	The Nature of Things (N)		Pagan Christ	CBC News: The National		The Hour
	2	2	2	CBC-F	Terre humaine	Pyramide (SC)	Virginie (SC)	Infoman (SC)	Enquête (HDTV) (SC)	Grosse vie (N)	C.A. (N) (SC)	Le Téléjournal
	32	32	32	CBS	News (N)	Evening News	The Insider (N)	Entertainment	Survivor: Gabon (N)	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		Eleventh Hour
	69	69	69	CFTM	TVA 18 heures	Le Cercle (SC)	La Fièvre de la danse (SC)		Les Actions du Banquier	JPR hors série	Vlog (N) (SC)	TVA 22 heures
	6	6	6	CHIF	Entertainment	ET Canada	The Office	The Office	Survivor: Gabon (N)	The Office "Fun Run"		News (N)
	9	9	9	CJCH	etalk	Dance	CSI: NY		CSI: Miami	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		News (N)
	10	10	10	ELTV	(6) EastLink Television				Podium TV	EastLink Television		
	36	36	36	FOX	(5:25) NFL Football Seattle Seahawks at Dallas Cowboys.				Click ** (2006, Comedy) Adam Sandler, Christopher Walken.			Fox First
primetime	12	12	12	NBC	News (N)	NBC News	Hollywood	Extra (N)	The Incredibles *** (2004, Adventure)	Voices of Craig T. Nelson.		
	29	29	29	NW	World News	Business	CBC News	Newman	The Hour	CBC News: The National		Nature-Things
	4	4	4	PBS-B	NewsHour With Jim Lehrer		Greater Boston	Basic Black	Pioneers of Television	Great Performances		
	35	35	35	PBS-D	NewsHour With Jim Lehrer		Business Rpt.	Worldfocus	This Old Hse.	Hometime	Ask This Old Michigan	Spain-On Road
	68	68	68	TQS	(6:30) Le Retour (SC)		Rire et délire	Loft Story	La Peur d'un rêve (2006, Suspense)	Paula Trickey. Début.		110 pour cent
	23	96	96	BNN	Business News	Headline	Market Call	Commodities	GetConnected	Business News	Squeeze Play	Market Call
	18	18	18	CNN	(5) The Situation Room		Lou Dobbs Tonight		Campbell Brown: No Bias		CNN Heroes: An All-Star Tribute (N)	
	54	54	54	GOLF	Drive, Chip & Putt (N)		Big Break X: Michigan		School of Golf	Tee It	PGA Championship Highlights	Tee It
	52	52	52	RSE	NFL Football: Seahawks at Cowboys			NHL Hockey Toronto Maple Leafs at Ottawa Senators.			(HDTV) (Live)	Sportsnet Con.
	55	55	55	SCOR	Hockey Talk	Game On	Score on NFL	Cabby Unlimit	24/7		Score Tonight	
news	45	45	45	SPD	Wrecked	Wrecked	Wrecked	Wrecked	Wrecked	Wrecked (N)	Wrecked (N)	Wrecked
	53	53	53	TSN	Off the Record	SportsCentre	That's Hockey!	Madden Nation	NFL Football Arizona Cardinals at Philadelphia Eagles.	(HDTV) (Live)		
	43	43	43	FAM	Zoey 101	Life Derek	Wizards-Place	That's-Raven	Zack & Cody	Natural-Sadie	Han. Montana	Life Derek
	44	44	44	TOON	6teen	Total Drama	George-Jungle	Bugs Bunny & Tweety Show	Wayside	Johnny Test	Futurama	The Critic
	26	26	26	TREE	Max & Ruby	Backyardigans	Ni Hao, Kai-lan	Night Grdn	Toot & Puddle	Franklin	Little Bear	Maggie-Beast
	27	27	27	YTV	Drake & Josh	iCarly	H2O, Just Add	Prank Patrol	Malcolm-Mid.	Sabrina-Witch	Futurama	Prank Patrol
	16	16	16	A&E	Cold Case Files (HDTV)		Cold Case Files (HDTV)		The First 48		The First 48 (HDTV)	The First 48
	70	70	70	APTN	News		Suaangan	Wapos Bay	By the Rapids	renegadeexpress	Big Spender (2003, Drama) Casper Van Dien.	
	50	50	50	BET	(5:30) BET Awards '08				Madea's Family Reunion ** (2006, Comedy) Tyler Perry, Lynn Whitfield.			Brother
	37	37	37	BRVO	Street Legal		Desperate Housewives		Snapshot	In the Mind ...	Where the Truth Lies (2005, Drama) (DVS)	
sports	25	25	25	CMT	Live at the Revival		The Wilkinsons	The Wilkinsons	Home Improve.	Home Improve.	Reba	Hope & Faith
	49	49	49	COM	Laughs	Comedy Now	Air Farce	Just for Laughs	Corner Gas		The Simpsons	South Park
	153	153	153	COURT	Truth, Duty, Valour		The Investigators		Cops Uncut	Dumb Criminal	Navy SEALs: Untold Stories	Investigators
	38	38	38	DISC	How It's Made	How It's Made	Daily Planet (N)		To Be Announced			MythBusters
	34	48	48	HGTV	Holmes on Homes		House Hunters	Property Virgin	Holmes on Homes		The Fix	Disaster DIY
	46	46	46	HIST	Finding the Fallen		NCIS		Lost Worlds		Finding the Fallen	NCIS
	17	17	17	MM	Pimp My Ride	Meet Barkers	Meet Barkers	disBand	Instant Star	Instant Star	50 Cent: Money and Power	50 Cent-Money
	19	19	19	MMM	MusicProfile	mmmtop10.com		Back In	Behind the Music (N)		Listed	Gene Simmons
	201	201	201	M1	Shadowboxer	(7:45) The Great Debaters *** (2007, Docudrama), Forest Whitaker					Love in the Time of Cholera ** (2007)	
	48	23	23	OLN	The Amazing Race 6		Ed's Up	Videos	Commando: On the Front Line		Survivorman	Pilot Guides
family	51	51	51	PEACH	Seinfeld	Friends	House-Payne	House-Payne	Friends	Friends	Friends	Frank Ski
	206	206	206	PIX	Books-Film	(7:45) Silverado *** (1985, Western) Kevin Kline, Kevin Costner.					Clear and Present Danger *** (1994)	
	67	67	67	RDI	RDI en direct	RDI en direct	24 Heures en 60 minutes		Grands reportages (SC)		Le Téléjournal (SC)	RDI en direct
	39	39	39	SHOW	EastEnders	Spaced	Painkiller Jane		ReGenesis "Talk to Him"		Trailer Park	Trailer Park
	40	40	40	SLICE	Matchmaker	Til Debt-Part	End of Leash	ET Canada	Rich Bride, Poor Bride		X-Weighted "Chris"	Biggest Loser
	47	47	47	SPACE	Stargate SG-1		Lost		Star Trek: Voyager		Battlestar Galactica	Chuck
	14	14	14	SPIKE	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		TNA IMPACT! (HDTV) (N)	
	57	98	98	STAR	FashionTele	Look-A-Like	The Ellen DeGeneres Show		TMZ (N)	etalk	Look-A-Like	etalk Britney
	21	21	21	TLC	Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate Plus 8		Jon & Kate Plus 8		Jon & Kate Plus 8	Twins, Twins
	56	34	34	TROP	Make or Break	Naked Fashion	Beverly Hills, 90210		Make or Break	What Happen?	Family Guy	Seinfeld
cable variety	20	20	20	TV5	Que-champion	Journal de Fr2	Toute une histoire		Club social		Envoyé spécial	
	28	28	28	V	Jozi-H (DVS)		Murder, She Wrote		Wait for God	Keeping Up	Love in the Afternoon (1957, Comedy)	
	60	97	97	VIVA	Mysterious Ways		Judging Amy		Commander In Chief		The West Wing	Passion
	22	22	22	W	House	Style by Jury	Will & Grace	Friends	Divine Design	House	Confidential	Save Us-House
	251	251	251	WGN	Be-Millionaire	Evening News	Two/Half Men	Family Guy	Smallville "Odyssey"		Supernatural (HDTV)	WGN News



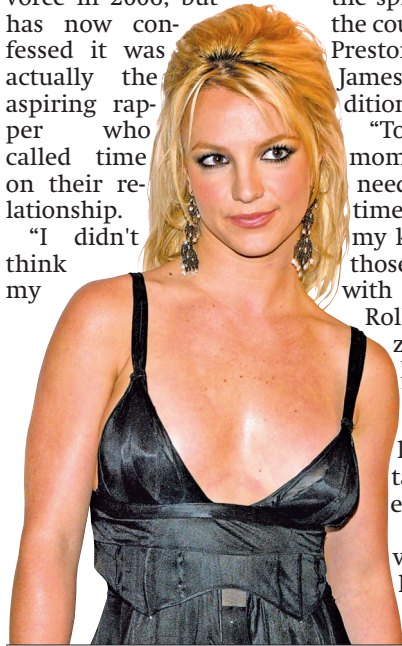


**Daly to be a daddy**  
TV personality Carson Daly and girlfriend Siri Pinter are expecting their first child together in early spring. [PEOPLE.COM](http://PEOPLE.COM)

Celebrity Buzz

Kevin left Britney

**REVELATION** Britney Spears has revealed Kevin Federline ended their marriage, [femalefirst.co.uk](http://femalefirst.co.uk) reports. The singer filed for divorce in 2006, but has now confessed it was actually the aspiring rapper who called time on their relationship. “I didn’t think my



METRO NEWS SERVICES

husband was gonna leave me,” she says. Spears, who recently admitted the marriage was a mistake, also revealed her sadness over the split because it means the couple’s two sons, Sean Preston, 3, and Jayden James, 2, can’t enjoy a traditional upbringing. “To be a really good mom, I feel your child needs to be your full-time job. I want to raise my kids and share all of those precious moments with them,” Spears tells *Rolling Stone* magazine. “If Kevin hadn’t left, I’d be with my babies 24/7. But since they’re almost like twins, they both take care of each other.” Spears has three visits a week with her sons.

Dating Clooney ‘stressful,’ ex says

**RELATIONSHIPS** Dating George Clooney was “nerve-racking” and “stressful” as far as his model ex Sarah Larson was concerned, [imdb.com](http://imdb.com) reports.

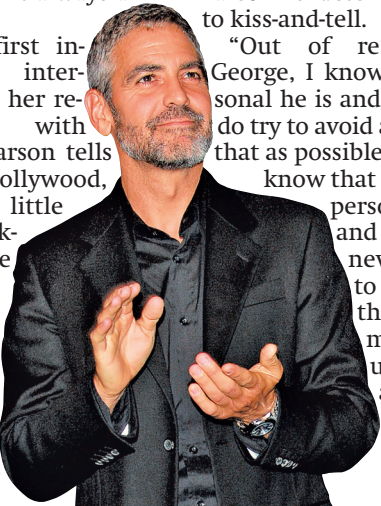
The former cocktail waitress admits she loved dating the actor, but the romance wasn’t always a hoot.

In her first in-depth TV interview about her relationship with Clooney, Larson tells *Access Hollywood*, “It was a little nerve-racking because everybody loves George, and so, to be in the public eye like that, it was a lit-

tle bit stressful. It’s a lot to take in. I think I just went like a deer in the headlights. At times, I (didn’t) know what to do.”

The pair dated for almost a year and Larson reveals the break up was fast, and she hasn’t kept in touch with Clooney. Still, Larson is determined not to kiss-and-tell.

“Out of respect for George, I know how personal he is and so I really do try to avoid as much of that as possible, because I know that he’s a very personal guy and I would never want to do anything to make (him) uncomfortable.”



METRO NEWS SERVICES

Winslet stunned to get big break

**CAREER** Kate Winslet was so stunned when she landed her big break in Peter Jackson’s *Heavenly Creatures*, she had to be escorted from the delicatessen she was working in, [imdb.com](http://imdb.com) reports.

The actress admits she had no idea that she’d landed the lead role in the 1994 film, and the phone call confirming the part was a complete shock to her.

“I was in the middle of making a sandwich and I had to

leave work pretty much immediately,” she tells *Parade* magazine. “Somebody else had to finish making this poor guy’s sandwich, because I was hysterical. Then I had to walk home, because I had forgotten to collect my wages before I left, and I had no bus fare.”

She still has fond memories of the time she spent behind the deli counter. “I made sandwiches. I cut up cheese. I ground coffee. I loved it!”



METRO NEWS SERVICES

Jolie denies pregnancy

**RUMOUR** Angelina Jolie has been forced to deny she is pregnant again following tabloid reports suggesting the actress is expecting her fourth biological child with Brad Pitt, [imdb.com](http://imdb.com) reports.

Speculation surrounding a reported pregnancy has dogged the couple in recent months, rumours which were denied by the Oscar winner’s publicist earlier this month.

In *Touch* magazine has most recently claimed Jolie is pregnant again, reporting that Jodlie announced the news to a waiter in a London restaurant after he tried to pour her an alcoholic drink.

But the star’s representative, Geyer Kosinski, refutes the reports, telling [usmagazine.com](http://usmagazine.com) the claims are “not true.”



METRO NEWS SERVICES

Anderson wants to be taken seriously

**IMAGE** Pamela Anderson is ready to ditch her image as a pinup so she can reinvent herself as a serious actress, [imdb.com](http://imdb.com) reports. Now that she’s 41, the former *Baywatch* star is reportedly eager to be a better role model for her two sons.

“Pam felt her management team just saw her as a sexy pinup, and she wants to be taken more seriously,” a source tells *Star* magazine.



METRO NEWS SERVICES

Kidman won’t release her Australia diary

**PEOPLE** Nicole Kidman has scrapped plans to release the diary she kept while filming epic *Australia* because it’s far too personal, [imdb.com](http://imdb.com) reports.

“I was going to release the diary and then I thought, ‘No, I can’t release it, this is too personal.’ Then bits of it ended up in the press, so people have read little bits of it,” Kidman says.



METRO NEWS SERVICES

HELLO! Hot shot of the week



PETER BRICC/HELLO! CANADA

The *Young and the Restless* star Eric Braeden, a.k.a., the charmingly ruthless Victor Newman, recently welcomed *HELLO! Canada* into his luxurious Los Angeles home. While he’s nothing like Victor Newman, he certainly has his alter-ego’s self-discipline. “Today, I did 100 pushups,” says the 67-year-old former athlete, who stays in shape by playing tennis, biking and boxing. “If I don’t have much time during the day, I’ll do 100 squats in the shower.”

**HELLO! CANADA** magazine, now available on newsstands – read more at [hellomagazine.ca](http://hellomagazine.ca)

Mariah musical in the works

**PEOPLE** Mariah Carey’s life story is set to be made into a musical, [femalefirst.co.uk](http://femalefirst.co.uk) reports.

The singer has reportedly attracted attention from a big name in the theatre industry who wants to create a Broadway show based on her.

“A huge, huge Broadway producer is interested in Mariah’s story and it’s in discussions,” a source says. “Who would turn down an opportunity like

that? Mariah has a fascinating life.”

The stage show is set to feature some of the 39-year-old’s most highly publicized troubles including her divorce from Sony boss Tommy Mottola in 1997, arguments with record producers and her reported physical and emotional breakdown.

The award-winning singer is now happily married to Nick Cannon, whom she wed in April this year.



METRO NEWS SERVICES

Cruz, Bardem may be in trouble

**RELATIONSHIPS** Penelope Cruz and Javier Bardem’s relationship is reportedly on the rocks, [femalefirst.co.uk](http://femalefirst.co.uk) reports.

The actress, who has been dating the actor since August, is said to be furious after he broke their agreement to take a year-long sabbatical to star in the new movie

*Biutiful*. “Javier couldn’t resist the chance to star in Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu’s new film,” a source says. “Penelope is really angry because she turned down a few really good roles because she was so committed to their sabbatical.”



METRO NEWS SERVICES

Richie, Madden to wed in January?

**MARRIAGE** Nicole Richie and Joel Madden are reportedly set to marry on their daughter’s first birthday, [femalefirst.co.uk](http://femalefirst.co.uk) reports.

The couple, who welcomed Harlow into the world on Jan. 11, are reportedly keen to tie the knot on the landmark date to show their child how much they love each other.

“They want to set an example for Harlow,” a friend of the pair said.

Richie and the Good Charlotte rocker are reportedly planning to sell pictures of the ceremony to a magazine. However, the couple intend to donate any money they make from their special day to charity.



METRO NEWS SERVICES

GETTY IMAGES PHOTOS









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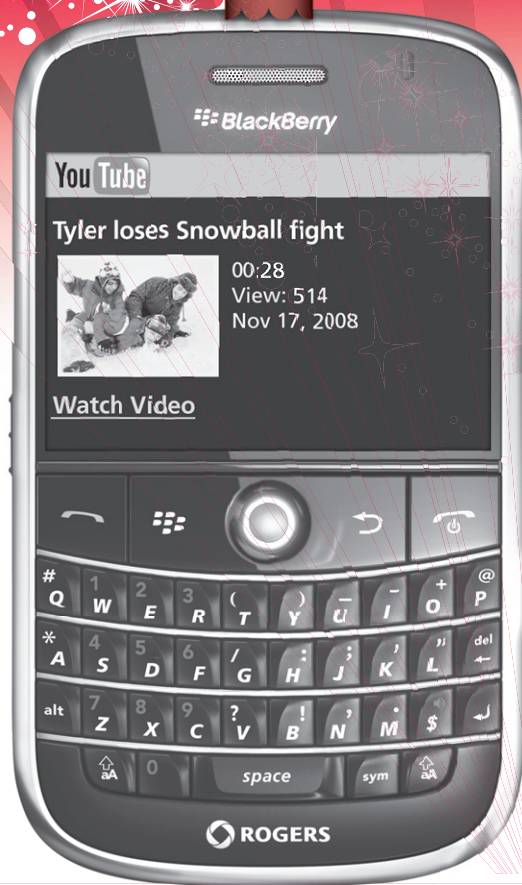
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